THE CHURCH

OF THE

PROVINCE

OF

WEST AFRICA

CONSTITUTION

AND CANONS

REVISED AS AT 1990

&

WITH AMENDEDMENTS OF 2003, 2006, 2011 & 2012

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THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE

OF WEST AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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The Constitution and Canons of the Province of West Africa, passed by the Provincial Synod at GIMPA in August 1987 in keeping with the provision of Article II of Chapter XIX of the Provincial Constitution, by virtue of authority in me vested, I, George D. Browne, Archbishop of the Province of West Africa, do hereby authenticate and promulgate the said Constitution and Canons this 28th day of November, 1989, in the eighth year of my Archiepiscopacy.

This Constitution and Canons will become effective on January 28, 1990.

George D. Browne
Archbishop

Ambassador
Hotel, Accra, Ghana.

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THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF

WEST AFRICA

"In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN"

Preamble

(a) The Church of the Province of West Africa, hereafter called the Church of this Province, is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion throughout the world, a Fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church and with all Dioceses, Provinces and Regional Churches which are in full communion with the See of Canterbury, upholding, maintaining and propagating the Faith, Doctrine, Sacraments and Discipline of the Church of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded in His Holy Word, the Old and New testaments of the Holy Scriptures, and the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion.

(b) This Preamble shall be an integral part of this Constitution.

CONSTITUTION AND CANONS AMENDMENT 2012

WHEREAS the Church of the Province of West Africa comprises of the Dioceses of Accra, Bo, Cameroon, Cape Coast, Dunkwa-on-Offin, Freetown, Gambia, Guinea, Ho, Koforidua, Kumasi, Liberia, Sekondi, Sunyani, Tamale and Wiawso;

WHEREAS the Province is governed by the Constitution and Canons of the Church of the Province of West Africa as revised in 1990;

WHEREAS under the said Constitution and Canons the Province has an Archbishop who is the Metropolitan and Primate;

WHEREAS the Provincial Synod, at its meeting held in Conakry, Guinea from 22nd – 25th March, 2011 resolved to amend the Constitution by creating two Internal Provinces within the one Church of the Province of West Africa, for the effective administration of the Province;

WHEREAS it was further resolved that each Internal Province shall be under the jurisdiction of an Archbishop;

WHEREAS it was also resolved that of the two Internal Archbishops, one should be elected by the Provincial Electoral College as the Metropolitan and Primate of the Church of the Province of West Africa;

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with Article XXVI of the Constitution of the Church of the Province of West Africa these amendments are hereby made.

ARTICLE I

ON THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF MAN

Dignity of Man

In conformity with Christian principles, the Church of this Province proclaims that all men have equal rights, value and dignity in the sight of God; and, while mindful to provide for the special needs of different people committed to its charge, it shall not allow any discrimination in the membership and government of the Church

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ARTICLE II

ON DOCTRINE AND WORSHIP

Doctrine and Worship

(a) The Church of this Province is a wholly autonomous and self governing part of the Body of Christ, and has the right to draw up its own formularies of faith and to determine those forms of liturgical worship as it deems best for the people of this Province.

(b) Until such time as these formularies are drawn up and accepted by the Church of this Province and the Liturgical worship can be formulated on its own foundations, the Church of this Province allows each of its constituent dioceses to use the Book of Common Prayer of its parent church as well as any other Book of Common Prayer of the church in the Anglican Communion which it wishes to use or such combinations of Services from Books of Common Prayer in the Anglican Communion as may be decided upon by its Diocesan Synod. Thus the Church of the Province accepts the Principles of Worship and affirms continuity with its past and its fellowship with all the other Churches of the Anglican tradition.

(c) The Church of this Province retains its power to make and authorize such deviations from, and additions or alternatives to, the forms of service provided in any of the Books of Common Prayer being used by its respective dioceses as may be required to meet the needs of this Province and are not contrary to the spirit and the teaching of the Anglican Communion.

(d)

(i) The Church of this Province has received and holds that each of the three Orders of the Ministry – Bishops, Priests and Deacons – has particular duties in the Church and that this distribution of duties may be rightly attributed to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Bishops have a special responsibility and authority for the preservation of the truth of the Church's doctrine, for the purity of its life, and for the worthiness of its worship. Priests, in cooperation with and under the guidance of the Bishops, have a special responsibility for preaching the word of God and administering the Holy Sacraments and generally for the care of souls. Deacons have a special responsibility for the care of the poor and distressed, for the instruction of the young and ignorant, and for giving assistance to the Priest in Divine Service.

(ii) Priests and Deacons owe canonical obedience in all things lawful and honest to the Bishop, and the Bishops of the several Dioceses owe canonical obedience to the Archbishop of the Province as their Metropolitan and to the terms of the Constitution of this Province.

(iia) The Bishops of an Internal Province shall owe accountability to the Internal Archbishop

(iii) All persons ordained and consecrated Bishop, Priest or Deacon shall, in the presence of the ordaining Bishop or Bishops, make either of the following declarations:

"I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship as evolved in the Church of the Province of West Africa."

OR

"I accept and unfeignedly believe all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as given by inspiration of God, and containing all things necessary to Salvation. I give general assent to the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion and to the Book of Common Prayer and of the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons: I believe the doctrine as therein set forth to be agreeable to the Word of God; and in Public Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments. I will use the form in the said Book prescribed, and none other, except so far as shall be ordered by lawful authority.

I, A.B., assent to the Doctrine and Worship of the Church of the Province of West Africa, and I further declare that I consent to be bound by all the Articles and Canons of the Province of West Africa, and by the Regulations which have heretofore been made, or which may from time to time be made by the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of ..... and by the Provincial Synod of the Province of West Africa.

(And I hereby undertake to accept and immediately submit to any sentence depriving me of any or all the rights and emoluments appertaining to the office of ..... which may at any time be passed upon me, after due examination had, by any Tribunal acknowledged by the Provincial Synod of the said Province for the trial of a Bishop or of a Clergyman saving all rights of Appeal allowed by the said Provincial Synod)." (The words in brackets to be used only when there is admission to an Office.)

(e) In the interpretation of standards and formularies and in all questions of Faith, Doctrine and Discipline, the Church of this Province is bound only by decisions of its own ecclesiastical tribunals or such other tribunals as may hereafter be established by the Provincial Synod.

ARTICLE III

ON THE EXTENT OF THE PROVINCE

Provincial Area

(a) The Church of the Province of West Africa shall consist of the Dioceses of Accra, Bo, Cape Coast, Freetown, Gambia, Guinea, Koforidua, Kumasi, Liberia, Sekondi, Sunyani/Tamale and such others as may be formed or added under the provisions of this Constitution.

(b) The Provincial Synod, in keeping with provisions of this Constitution, shall have authority to admit to this Province other Anglican Dioceses in adjacent countries of Africa, to form new Dioceses within the boundaries of any of the existing Dioceses of the Province, to alter the boundaries of the Diocese, for forming a new Diocese beyond the limits of the present Dioceses, to divide the Province into separate provinces, or to combine with other Anglican Dioceses in the formation of new Provinces provided that no resulting Province shall consist of less than four Dioceses.

(c) It shall be competent for the Church of the Province of West Africa to act in association with any other Province or Provinces in such manner and for such purposes, as shall be mutually agreed, subject to the concurrence of the Province.

ARTICLE III A

ON CREATION OF THE INTERNAL PROVINCES

Internal Provinces

1.

(a) There is hereby created within the Church of the Province of West Africa, two Internal Provinces namely,

(i) Internal Province of Ghana comprising all the dioceses in Ghana; and

(ii) Internal Province of West Africa comprising the dioceses of Bo, Cameroon, Freetown, Gambia, Guinea and Liberia.

(b) The Provincial Synod may create such other Internal Provinces as it considers appropriate.

Election of Internal Archbishops

2. There shall be elected by secret ballot for each Internal Province an Archbishop.

How elected

3.

(a) The Archbishop of an Internal Province shall be elected by an Electoral College composed of:

(i) The Bishops of the Internal Province who shall constitute the House of Bishops of the respective Internal Province; and

(ii) One elected Clergy and one elected Lay member of each diocese in the Internal Province.

(b) The chairman of the Electoral College of an Internal Province shall be the Chancellor of the Internal Province or in his absence the Registrar of the Internal Province.

(c) Canon I shall with such modifications as may be necessary apply to the election of an Internal Archbishop.

Functions of the Metropolitan and Primate and an Internal Archbishop

4.

(a) Subject to paragraph (b) an Archbishop of an Internal Province shall, have and exercise in respect of the Internal Province all rights and perform the functions conferred on the Archbishop as provided in Article V of this Constitution unless the context otherwise requires

(b) The functions provided in this paragraph shall be performed only by the Metropolitan and Primate:

(i) Matters relating to consecration of Bishops;

(ii) Doctrinal and liturgical issues;

(iii) Discipline of Bishops; and

(iv) Representation of the Province in matters relating to the Anglican Communion and to other churches and Metropolitans.

Tenure of office of an Archbishop of an Internal Province

5. The tenure of office of an Archbishop of an Internal Province shall be ten years only.

Effective administration of the Internal Provinces

6.

(a) For the effective administration of the Internal Provinces there shall be established within each Internal Province in accordance with this Constitution and Canons, and with such modifications as may be necessary:

(i) Internal Provincial Electoral College;

(ii) Internal Provincial Synod;

(iii) Internal Provincial Episcopal Synod; and

(iv) Internal Provincial Standing Committee.

(b) There shall be appointed for each Internal Province:

(i) Dean;

(ii) Chancellor;

(iii) Registrar;

(iv) Secretary;

(v) Treasurer; and

(vi) Such other officers as may be required.

ARTICLE IV

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF THE PROVINCE

Archbishop as Metropolitan

1.

(a) There shall be an Archbishop of the Church of the Province of West Africa who shall exercise all the rights and functions of the Metropolitan of the Anglican Communion as Chief Pastor and Primate.

(aa) The Metropolitan and Primate of the Province shall be elected from among the Archbishops of the Internal Provinces.

How elected

(b) The Archbishop shall be elected by an Electoral College. The mode of procedure of the Electoral College shall be determined by Canon.

(c) The Electoral College shall consist of:

(i) The voting members of the House of Bishops; and

(ii) One member elected from the clergy and one member elected from the laity of each Diocese in each Internal Province.

(d) The Chairman of the Electoral College shall be the Provincial Chancellor, or in his absence, the Provincial Registrar.

Enthronement of the Archbishop

(e) Following his election, the Archbishop shall be enthroned at a convenient date. The Dean of the Province shall issue a Mandate to the Dean or the Provost, as the case may be, and Chapter of the Cathedral Church for the enthronement to be held in the Cathedral of the Diocese of which the elected Archbishop is Diocesan according to ceremony and practice already established in this Province.

How terminated

(f) The Metropolitan and Primate of the Province shall hold office for a term of five (5) years and shall be succeeded by the other Internal Archbishop for a term of five (5) years.

(i) The appointment may be terminated at any time by the Episcopal Synod if that course is recommended by competent medical authority on grounds of physical or mental incapacity.

(ii) The appointment shall terminate if the Archbishop resigns as Archbishop without resigning his Diocese, or if the Archbishop resigns his Diocese unless he is simultaneously translated to another See within the Province.

Retirement Allowance for Archbishop

(g) Upon his retirement or resignation, the Archbishop shall be granted, in addition to whatever pension he may receive from his Diocese, an allowance to be paid by the Treasurer of the Province in an amount to be fixed by the Provincial Synod and in a manner as shall be decided by the Provincial Synod, but not less than one third of the pension provided by his Diocese. In

case of death a gratuity also to be fixed by the Provincial Synod shall be paid by the Treasurer to his widow or family if there are dependents.

(h) When the Archbishop notifies the Dean of his intention to resign or retire and the Dean has in consultation with the Bishops accepted the resignation under Article XI of the Constitution, the Dean shall summon the Electoral College to a meeting before the date on which the resignation or retirement takes effect to elect a successor.

ARTICLE V

ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ARCHBISHOP

(a) The Archbishop has the following functions as Archbishop of the Province:

Spiritual and Temporal Leadership

(i) The exercise the spiritual and temporal leadership of the Church of this Province as well as to hold such authority and rights of supervision in the Province as are committed to him by virtue of his office and in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and Canons.

Speaking God's Word

(iii) To speak God's word to the Church and to the world as a representative of this Province in its corporate capacity.

Presiding Officer

(iii) To summon and to preside over the Provincial Synod, the Episcopal Synod and the Provincial Standing Committee.

Confirmation of elections to the Episcopacy

(iv) To confirm or otherwise deal with, in conjunction with other members of the Episcopal Synod, the election of any person duly elected to be a Bishop of the Province in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and Canons; to take order for the consecration of Bishops after all constitutional and canonical procedures have been fulfilled; and to assemble the Episcopal Synod from time to time when he deems it necessary for spiritual fellowship and consultation.

Visitations

(v) To visit officially the Dioceses of the Province as Metropolitan, whether at the invitation of the Bishop of a Diocese or of his own initiative, for the purpose of holding pastoral consultations with the Clerical and Lay Leaders of the Diocese, preaching the Word, and celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Chairman of Appeals

(vi) To preside at the hearing of such appeals as may be allowed by the regulations of the Province from the decisions of a Diocesan authority to a Provincial authority, and other occasions when Episcopal Synod sits as a Court.

Representative of Province

(vii) To represent the Province in its relation to the rest of the Anglican Communion and other Churches and on its behalf to correspond with other Metropolitans.

Periodic Reports

(viii) The Bishop shall make periodic reports to the Church of this Province and he may, from time to time, issue Pastoral Letters in his own person as well as with members of the Episcopal Synod.

Appointment of Administrative Staff

(ix) The Archbishop, in consultation with the Provincial Standing Committee, shall appoint administrative staff to facilitate the work of the Province.

ARTICLE VI

ON THE DEAN OF THE PROVINCE

Election of Dean

(a) There shall be a Dean of the Province who shall be elected by the Episcopal Synod from among the Diocesan Bishop by a simple majority for the life of the Synod.

Functions

(b) The Dean of the Province shall, during a vacancy in the office of Archbishop, or in the event of the incapacity of the Archbishop fulfill the duties assigned to the Archbishop in this Constitution. In the absence of the Archbishop from the Province, the Dean shall perform such duties of the Archbishop as the Archbishop may assign to him and notify the other Bishops of the Province.

In case of vacancy how functions are to be performed

(c) During any vacancy in the office of Dean or if the Dean is absent from the Province or is incapacitated by illness from carrying out his duties as Dean, the Diocesan Bishop of the Province most senior in consecration shall act as Dean.

Obedience to locum tenens

(d) When the Dean or a Bishop acting in his stead in accordance with this Constitution is performing the functions of the Archbishop of the Province, the Bishop and Clergy of the Province shall render to him such obedience as they are bound to give to the Archbishop.

(e) If and when the Archbishop or the Dean is able to resume his functions all special authority committed to the Dean or to the Bishop acting for the Dean as aforesaid shall lapse.

ARTICLE VII

ON THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF BISHOPS

Election of Bishop by Synod

1. All Diocesan, Missionary, Coadjutor and Suffragan Bishops of this Province shall be elected by secret ballot by the Synod of the Diocese concerned in the manner hereinafter set forth in the Constitution and Canons of this Province.

Confirmation

2. Every such election shall receive the confirmation of the Archbishop acting in conjunction with the other members of the Episcopal Synod. After the said confirmation, the Archbishop shall authorize a release to the press and arrange for the consecration.

Oath of Obedience

3.

(a) At his consecration or translation or enthronement every Bishop of this Province shall take an Oath of Canonical Obedience to the Archbishop of this Province as Metropolitan and to his lawful successors.

(b) Such Bishop shall, at the same time, give his written assent to the Constitution and Canons of this Province according to forms as may be prescribed by the Provincial Synod.

Person Eligible

4. A Diocesan Bishop, Missionary Bishop, Coadjutor Bishop or Suffragan Bishop may be elected from among the Bishops or Clergy of any Diocese of this Province or of any other Diocese in Communion with this Province provided that candidates for such election shall not be less than 30 years old and shall have been a priest for at least 6 years.

Taking effect of Appointment

5. The appointment of a Bishop to a Diocese of this Province shall take effect from the moment of his consecration or, if he is already consecrated, upon his enthronement or translation

Vacancy

6. There shall exist a vacancy in the Diocese of this Province when any Bishop of that Diocese dies, resigns or retires (whether voluntarily or compulsorily) and whether before or after his consecration or is inhibited or excommunicated in accordance with the Provisions of this Constitution.

Bishops' Nomination Committee

7.

(a) There shall be in each Diocese of this Province a Bishop's Nominating Committee hereinafter referred to as "the Nominating Committee" to be elected by the first Synod of the new Episcopacy whose function shall be to make nominations to the Diocesan Synod as to the person or persons qualified for election by the Synod as a Bishop of this Province.

(b) The Nominating Committee shall consist of six (6) Clerical and six (6) Lay members elected by their respective Houses. Two-thirds of those members present and voting shall constitute a quorum. The Diocesan Chancellor or any person acting for him shall be an ex-officio member and Chairman but he shall have no right to vote.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Diocesan Bishop or other person presiding over the Diocesan Synod to notify, in writing, the Archbishop of the name of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee in his Diocese and of any change in the Chairmanship.

ARTICLE VIII

ON THE BISHOPS COADJUTOR, SUFFRAGAN AND ASSISTANT

Means for Episcopal Assistance

1. If a Diocesan Bishop shall have need of Episcopal assistance by reason of the extent of Diocesan work, age or infirmity, a Bishop Coadjutor, with the right of automatic succession, or a Suffragan Bishop, without the right of succession, may be elected by and for the said Diocese after the Archbishop has been consulted and has satisfied himself that the Diocese concerned is able to make proper financial provision for the holder of the proposed office.

Assistant Bishop

2. An Assistant Bishop may be appointed by the Diocesan Bishop from among Bishops who, having retired or having resigned their previous responsibilities are qualified to perform Episcopal acts in this Province, provided that the appointment shall terminate at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop or upon the retirement or resignation of the Bishop who makes the appointment. The Assistant Bishop shall perform such functions as are prescribed by the Diocesan Bishop.

Bishop Coadjutor

3.

(a) A Bishop Coadjutor may be elected when the Diocesan Bishop is due to retire within two years, has expressed his desire to resign or to retire before he reaches the retiring age.

(b) Before the election of a Bishop Coadjutor, the Diocesan Bishop shall read or cause to be read to the Diocesan Synod his consent to such election wherein he states the duties which he thereby assigns to the Bishop Coadjutor and such consent shall form part of the proceedings of the Synod and be communicated to the Archbishop.

(c) A Bishop Coadjutor has the right of automatic succession to the See as Diocesan if the Diocesan Bishop dies, resigns or retires. In the event of the creation of a vacancy in the See, the Bishop Coadjutor shall immediately notify the Archbishop of his assumption as Diocesan Bishop and the Archbishop shall authorize his enthronement as such.

(d) The duties assigned to the Bishop Coadjutor by the Diocesan Bishop may be enlarged by mutual consent whenever the Bishop may desire to assign such additional duties to the Bishop Coadjutor. There shall not, at anytime, be more than one Bishop Coadjutor in a Diocese.

Suffragan Bishop

4.

(a) A Suffragan Bishop shall be under the supervision of the Diocesan Bishop.

(b) A Suffragan Bishop when elected, confirmed, ordained and consecrated shall have full charge of a specific area of the Diocese of which he is appointed.

(c) The office of Suffragan Bishop shall not lapse with the election of a new Bishop for the Diocese in which the Suffragan Bishop holds his appointment and if he himself is not elected to the office of a Diocesan Bishop, he shall continue to serve in the Diocese to which he was appointed.

(d) The office of Suffragan Bishop carries with it no presumption that the holder will be elected to the office of Diocesan Bishop on the occurrence of a vacancy, nor that he will be precluded from such election, nor if a Diocese be divided and a new Diocese be formed that he will be elected to the new See or be precluded from such election.

5. All Bishops Coadjutor, Suffragan Bishops or Assistant Bishops shall be voting members of the Episcopal Synod.

ARTICLE IX

ON THE CONSECRATION AND ENTHRONEMENT OF BISHOPS

Consecration an Enthronement

1. At the earliest convenient time after the confirmation of the election of a Bishop in the Province, the Archbishop shall proceed to ordain and consecrate the person so elected and confirmed if he be not already consecrated; the Archbishop shall give authorization for his enthronement if he is elected a Diocesan Bishop.

Declaration of Bishop Elect

2. Every Bishop-elect shall, at his consecration, subscribe to a solemn declaration pledging canonical obedience to the Archbishop of the Province as Metropolitan and his lawful successors acknowledging the Constitution and Canons of the Province and submitting to the regulations of the Provincial Synod. If he is the Diocesan he shall pledge to govern his Diocese in accordance therewith. The declaration shall be as follows:

I, A.B., elected Bishop in the Diocese of ..... Do promise all due reverence and obedience to the Archbishop and to the Metropolitan Church of the Province of West Africa and to their successors.

I, A.B., elected Bishop in the Diocese of ..... do promise that I will teach and maintain the Faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Doctrine and discipline by him delivered to the Church, as acknowledged and set forth by the Church of the Province of West Africa in the Constitution of the said Province. And I also do declare that I consent to be bound by, (and to govern my Diocese in conformity with), all the Articles and Canons of the said Province, and by the Regulations which have heretofore been made, or which may from time to time

be made by the Provincial Synod of the Province of West Africa. And I hereby undertake to resign or to accept and immediately submit to any sentence depriving me of any or all the rights and emoluments appertaining to the said Bishopric, which may at any time be passed upon me, after due examination by any Tribunal acknowledged by the Provincial Synod of the said Province for the trial of a Bishop, saving all rights of appeal allowed by the said Provincial Synod.

Consecration

3.

(a) At least three Bishops shall be required for a Consecration, the Archbishop, and two other Bishops or the Dean, if he is authorized by the Archbishop.

(b) With the concurrence of the Provincial Standing Committee, the consecration of a Bishop of this Province may take place in any other Province by any other Metropolitan of the Anglican Communion in full communion with the See of Canterbury.

Enthronement

4. The Bishops of the Province shall be enthroned after the manner authorized in the Province. After the consecration or translation of the Diocesan Bishop, the Archbishop shall issue a mandate for this purpose to the Dean or Provost, and Chapter of the Cathedral Church, where such body is duly constituted, or otherwise to the Priest of the Diocese most senior in ordination

Custody of Records

5. After the consecration of any Bishop of the Province whether he has been consecrated in West Africa or elsewhere, it shall be necessary that the Certificate of Election and all records connected with such consecration be deposited in the archives of the Province. It shall be the duty of the Registrar of the Province, or his deputy, to require the production of all such papers before the enthronement, to which the records of enthronement shall be added.

ARTICLE X

ON RESIDENCE OF BISHOP

Residence of Bishops

1. Every Bishop appointed to the charge of a Diocese shall reside within his Diocese unless, upon the ground of ill-health or other important consideration, it should, for a time, be undesirable. The Archbishop shall be judge of such exceptional circumstances.

Consent for Absence

2. No Diocesan Bishop shall absent himself from his Diocese for more than six weeks without the consent of the Archbishop, nor shall the Archbishop absent himself from this Province for more than six weeks without notifying the Dean of the Province, who shall inform the other Bishops.

Provisions during Absence

3.

(a) If a Diocesan Bishop will be absent from his Diocese for more than six months and there be no Bishop Coadjutor, Suffragan Bishop or Assistant Bishop in the Diocese, he shall be bound to make arrangements for Confirmations and Ordinations.

(b) If the Diocesan shall be absent from his Diocese for more than six weeks and there be no Bishop Coadjutor, Suffragan Bishop or Assistant Bishop to whom he can delegate authority to administer the spiritualities of the Diocese, and to maintain discipline according to this Constitution, he shall make appropriate arrangements through the appointment of a Vicar-General with requisite authority or through such means that are provided in his Diocesan Constitution and Canons for an Ecclesiastical Authority.

Absence without Consent

4.

(a) Should a Diocesan Bishop be absent from his Diocese for more than six weeks without the consent of the Archbishop as required by this Constitution, the Archbishop may give him three months' notice in writing to return to his Diocese. If the notice is disregarded the Archbishop may, with the consent of the majority of the Bishops of this Province, declare the See vacant.

(b) The functions of the Archbishop in this Article shall be exercised by the Dean of the Province or any Bishop if either is acting for the Archbishop in accordance with provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XI

ON RESIGNATION AND RETIREMENT OF BISHOPS

1. If a Bishop shall desire to resign his See, he shall send his resignation to the Archbishop in writing or, if the said Bishop is the Archbishop of the Province, to the Dean of the Province. The Archbishop or the Dean of the Province, as the case may be, in consultation with the Bishops of the Province, shall determine whether the resignation should be accepted or not.

Compulsory resignation of Bishop

2. Any Bishop of the Province may, upon representation made to the Archbishop by at least two Bishops of the Province, be requested, or if necessary required to resign his See, if after due consideration and after giving the fullest opportunity to the Bishop concerned to state his views, the Archbishop, in consultation with the other Bishops of the Province, decide that the Bishop is no longer able to discharge adequately the duties of his office.
3. When a Bishop of the Province submits his resignation, the Synod of the Diocese concerned shall be given an opportunity by the Archbishop to be heard before effect is given to such resignation.

Retirement of Bishops

4.

(a) All Bishops of this Province shall retire from office on attaining the age of **seventy (70) years**; but any Bishop of this Province may opt for voluntary retirement after ten years of service in the episcopacy unless, because of ill health, he elects to resign.

(b) The retirement of the Archbishop shall be in keeping with Article IV (1) (f) (i) of this Constitution.

Pension

(c) Each Diocese, until the Province adopts a suitable pension scheme, is required to develop a pension scheme to assure proper pension and maintenance of retired or resigned Bishops and retired or resigned members of its clergy.

ARTICLE XII

ON THE EPISCOPAL SYNOD

Members

1. There shall be an Episcopal Synod of this Province which shall be comprised of all the Bishops of this Province – Diocesan, Coadjutor, Suffragan, Assistant and Retired.

Privileges

2. All Bishops of this Province shall have the right to vote at meetings of the Episcopal Synod, but retired Bishops shall be non voting members. The Archbishop shall have a casting vote.

Authority

3. The Episcopal Synod shall have final authority in those matters which are the special responsibilities of the Orders of Bishops. On matters of Faith and Order, the Bishops may consider whether advice shall be sought from the Archbishop of Canterbury, any other Primate or Metropolitan in the Anglican Communion or the Anglican Consultative Council.

Functions

4. The Episcopal Synod shall discuss such matters as the Archbishop or any Diocesan Bishop of the Province wishes to bring before it, and the Episcopal Synod shall have the right to bring before the Provincial Synod such matters as it thinks fit.

Meetings

5. The Episcopal Synod shall meet whenever so required by this Constitution and at such other times as the Archbishop shall think fit. The place and time of meeting shall be determined by the Archbishop. The Archbishop shall summon the Episcopal Synod to meet if a request for such a meeting is made by three or more Diocesan Bishops of this Province.

Quorum

6. A quorum for a meeting of the Episcopal Synod shall be two-thirds of the voting members.

ARTICLE XIII

ON THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD

Powers

1. There shall be a Provincial Synod of this Province. It shall be the Legislative Body, and every enactment of the Provincial Synod shall be binding upon the Church throughout this Province.

Composition

2. The Provincial Synod shall consist of three houses namely (a) the House of Bishops; (b) the House of Clergy; and the (c) the House of Laity. The three Houses shall be constituted in accordance with this Constitution. Diocesan Chancellor or Diocesan Registrar or any person acting on their behalf shall be ex-officio members of the Provincial Synod.

Authority

3. The Provincial Synod has the final authority in matters concerning the spiritual discipline of the Church of this Province.

President

4. The Archbishop, by virtue of his office, shall be President of the Provincial Synod. In his absence, the Dean of the Province (if present) shall preside and, in the absence of both the Archbishop and the Dean of the Province, the Senior Diocesan Bishop by consecration shall preside.

Ordinary Session

5. An ordinary session of the Provincial Synod shall be held once every three years at such time and place as the Archbishop may appoint. The notice convening a Session of the Synod shall be given not less than three months and the Agenda not less than one month before the date fixed for the Session.

Special Session

6. A Special Session of the Provincial Synod may be convened by the Archbishop at his own discretion at any time and place as he may determine, and shall be convened by the Archbishop in response to and within three months after receipt of a written request made by the Provincial Standing Committee. The notice convening such a Session shall be given about one month before the date of convening and the Archbishop shall give a general intimation of the purposes for which the Synod is being summoned.

Representation of Dioceses

7. Every Diocese of this Province shall be entitled to be represented in the Provincial Synod. The Provincial Synod shall have the right, from time to time, to review representation and may for cause withhold or cancel the right to such representation of any Diocese.

How Organized

8. The three Houses of the Provincial Synod i.e. the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity shall sit together at each meeting of any Session for the transaction of business and for debate. If a majority of members of any House shall require opportunity for separate deliberation, such opportunity shall be given as soon as practicable. The session of the Synod shall be suspended for the purpose of such separate deliberations and shall be resumed at such time as shall be determined immediately prior to such suspension. Any resolution passed by any one of the three Houses alone shall only have the effect of a recommendation to Synod.

Ex-officio Members of Synod

9. The Provincial Chancellor, the Provincial Registrar, the Provincial Secretary, the Provincial Treasurer, Diocesan Chancellors or the Diocesan Registrars or any person acting on their behalf shall be ex-officio members of the Provincial Synod.

Voting

10. The three Houses of the Synod shall ordinarily vote together. But if any member shall, before any motion is put, request a vote by Houses, his request shall be granted provided he is supported by five members of his House. If voting be by Houses, it shall be conducted in the following order – first by the House of Laity, then by the House of Clergy, then by the House of Bishops.

Holy Communion

11. Every Session of the Synod shall begin with a celebration of the Holy Communion.

Committee of Reference

12. At the beginning of the Provincial Synod, there shall be appointed from among its members a Committee of Reference to which the Archbishop, the Provincial Synod or the Provincial Standing Committee may submit, for its advice, any proposed amendments to the Provincial Constitution, other proposed enactments of the Provincial Synod, or any other matter. The committee shall be appointed by the Archbishop or his locum tenens.

ARTICLE XIV

ON THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS

How Constituted

1. The House of Bishop shall consist of all the Bishops of the Province – Diocesan, Coadjutor, Suffragan, Missionary, Assistant and Retired Bishops.
2. In the House of Bishops a motion shall be carried if a majority of the Bishops, excluding the retired Bishops, present and voting, vote for it.

ARTICLE XV

ON THE HOUSE OF CLERGY

Membership

1. The House of Clergy shall consist of such Priests and Deacons of the Province who hold the license of the Bishop of the Diocese which they represent and who are voting members of the House of Clergy of the Diocesan Synod of that Diocese when that has been constituted, as have been elected or appointed Clerical Representatives of that Diocese.

Presiding Officer

2. The House of Clergy shall at its first meeting in each Ordinary Session of the Provincial Synod elect one of its members as Prolocutor to preside over the House of Clergy and he shall serve in that capacity until the next Ordinary Session of the Provincial Synod.

ARTICLE XVI

ON THE HOUSE OF LAITY

Composition

1. The House of Laity shall consist of such lay persons who are communicant members of the Church of this Province, as have been elected Lay Representatives of the Diocese they represent.

Presiding Officer

2. The House of Laity shall at its first meeting in each Ordinary Session of the Provincial Synod elect a Chairman from among the members of that House who shall serve in that capacity until the next Ordinary Session of the Provincial Synod.

ARTICLE XVII

ON THE PROVINCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE

Organization

1. There shall be a Provincial Standing Committee which shall be constituted as determined by the Provincial Synod.

Functions

2. The duties of the Provincial Standing Committee shall be to act on behalf of the Provincial Synod between sessions of the Synod, to advise the Archbishop on such provincial matters as he may refer to it, or that the Provincial Standing Committee may desire to bring to the notice of the Archbishop, to assist him in drawing up the Agenda for the Provincial Synod and carrying it into effect and to implement the programmes and policies decided upon by the Provincial Synod.

Meetings

3. The Archbishop or, in his absence, the Dean of the Province, shall summon meetings of the Provincial Standing Committee at such time and place as he may appoint.

ARTICLE XVIII

ON THE ADMISSION AND CREATION OF NEW DIOCESES

How Formed

1. A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the Provincial Synod
   (a) By the division of two or more Dioceses;
   (b) By the junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; or
   (c) By the creation into a Diocese of an evangelized area.

Where it Originates

2. The proceedings shall originate in a Synod of the Diocese to be divided; or when it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more Dioceses, by mutual agreement of the Synods of the two Dioceses concerned; or in a Convocation of the Clergy and the Laity of the evangelized area called for that purpose.

See shall not be Vacant

3. In case the See of a Diocese be vacant, no proceedings towards its division shall be taken until the vacancy is filled.

When union with Province becomes effective

4. The new Diocese shall be in union with the Church of the Province of West Africa, when the Provincial Synod gives its consent and when new Diocese accedes to the Constitution and Canons of this Province. Such accession shall be filed with the Provincial Secretary.

Constitution and Canons of existing Diocese

5. Wherever a new Diocese is formed and erected out of an existing Diocese, it shall be subject to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese out of which it was formed until altered by the Synod of the new Diocese or a new one is developed by the new Diocese. The Provincial Synod may, however, require the adoption of Constitution and Canons by the Synod of the New Diocese before its creation is finalized.

Number of Parishes

6. No new Diocese shall be formed if thereby any existing Diocese shall be so reduced as to contain fewer than six parishes and no new Diocese shall be formed unless it shall contain at least five parishes within the bounds of such new Diocese.

Cession

7. By mutual agreement between the Synods of two adjoining Dioceses, a portion of the territory of one of said Diocese may be ceded to the other Diocese, but such cession shall be considered completer only after the approval of the Provincial Synod.

ARTICLE XIX

ON THE PROVINCIAL OFFICERS

Provincial Officers

There shall be a Provincial Chancellor, Provincial Registrar, Provincial Secretary, Provincial Treasurer, Clerical Secretary of Synod, and Lay Secretary of Synod. The manner of appointment and functions of these several officers shall be defined by Canon.

ARTICLE XX

ON THE MISSION AREAS AND DIOCESES

Mission Areas

1. The Episcopal Synod may establish a mission in any area not included within the boundaries of any Diocese of this Province or of any Church in communion within this Province, and elect or appoint a Bishop therefore.

Missionary Dioceses

2. Missionary Diocese shall be organized as may be prescribed by Canon of the Provincial Synod.

ARTICLE XXI

ON PROVINCIAL FUNDS AND PROPERTY

Common Provincial Fund

1. A Common Provincial Fund shall be established for the following purposes:
   (a) To contribute towards the official expenses incurred by the Archbishop in the administration and visitation of the Province.
   (b) To provide for the expenses of the Episcopal Synod, the Provincial Synod, and the Provincial Standing Committee.
   (c) To contribute toward the maintenance and development of any Provincial Institutions or works approved by the Provincial Synod.
   (d) To provide for, or to be applied to, such other expenses as may be approved by the Provincial Synod or by the Provincial Standing Committee.

The common Provincial Fund shall be vested in, and shall be administered by, the Provincial Synod.

Diocesan Assessments

2. The Provincial Synod shall determine and may, from time to time, increase or diminish the contribution to be paid annually by each Diocese of the Province to the Common Provincial Fund.

Management of Trust Property

3. The Provincial Synod shall frame such Regulations as may be necessary from time to time for the management of property held in trust for the church of this Province in or outside a Diocese in the Province and shall have full power and authority to determine in what manner, and subject to what conditions, the said property shall be used or occupied: Provided that if a Diocesan Synod had made regulations or shall make regulations for the management and use of such Provincial property in that Diocese, such regulations shall have full force and effect until other regulations are made by the Provincial Synod to the contrary and except regulations previously made by Provincial Synod are contrary to those made by the Diocesan Synod.

Power to Borrow

4. The Provincial Synod shall have the power to obtain loans from the banks or other financial institutions and may delegate such power to the Trustees or any Board, Committee or other body, as the case may require.

Delegation of Powers

5. The Provincial Synod may delegate to any Diocesan Synod, Trustees, Board, Committee or other body, either specifically, as the case may require or under such general regulations as may from time to time be laid down by the Provincial Synod, any powers which may be required for the management of its property.

Trustees

6. All property, of whatsoever nature or kind whether movable or immovable, real or personal, which is or may be given, purchased, obtained or held for the benefit of the Province shall, whenever it is practicable, be transferred to Trustees acting on behalf of the Provincial Synod who shall hold the same, or otherwise shall transfer the same, upon and according to such charitable Trusts, intents and purposes, whether Ecclesiastical, Missionary, Religious, Collegiate, Scholastic as the Provincial Synod shall, from time to time, direct or appoint, in writing under the hand of any person or persons authorized by the Provincial Synod on that behalf subject, however, to any special Trust imposed by any Founder, Donor, Testator or other benefactor. But no property subject to any such special Trusts shall be held by any Trustees or Trustee acting on behalf of the Provincial Synod, unless the same shall have been accepted, in terms of such Trusts, by the Provincial Synod, or by some Synod Board, Committee, or other body authorized by the Provincial Synod in that behalf, provided that no property shall, in any case, be vested in a sole Trustee, except it be so required by a particular Will or Deed of Gift.

Conditions of Trustee

7. Every Trustee in whom any property whether movable or immovable, real or personal, shall be vested, either solely or jointly with any other person or persons, for and on behalf of the Provincial Synod, shall hold the same with the powers and subject to the limitations, restrictions, declarations, and provisos contained in the Canons, so far as the same may be consistent with any Synod, Board, Committee, or other body appointed by the Provincial Synod for that purpose, shall possess and may exercise any such of the powers belonging to the Provincial Synod in that behalf prescribed.

Obedience of Trustees

8. Every Trustee appointed in the manner and for the purpose herein specified, shall be subject to all and singular the regulations and directions which may from time to time be issued by or under the authority of the Provincial Synod, and shall be bound to obey and give effect to all decisions of the Tribunals for the exercise of Ecclesiastical Discipline, appointed by the Provincial Synod.

Diocesan Trustees

9. Every Diocesan Synod, or institutions appointed by such Synod with appropriate authority, shall be a body authorized to exercise, on behalf of the Provincial Synod, the powers designated in this Constitution and Canons in respect of property given or acquired for the benefit of the Church in that Diocese. All diocesan Trustees shall carry out the objects of the Trust in such manner, not inconsistent with the terms of the Trust, as the several Diocesan Synods shall from time to time direct.

ARTICLE XXII

ON ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

Tribunal for Trial of Bishops

1. The Provincial Synod may, by Canon, establish a Tribunal for the trial of Bishops, which shall be composed of Bishops only.

Trial of Priests and Deacons

2. Priests and Deacons canonically resident in the Diocese shall be tried by a Tribunal instituted by the Diocesan Synod.

Provincial Tribunals of Review

3. The Provincial Synod may establish or provide for Provincial Tribunals of Review of the determination of the Tribunal on trial of a Bishop, it being understood that Tribunals for the review on trial of a Bishop shall be composed of Bishops only.

Only Bishops to Pronounce Sentence

4. None but a Bishop shall pronounce sentence of suspension, removal or deposition from the Ministry on any Bishop, Priest or Deacon.

Sentence to state Terms and Conditions

5. A sentence of suspension shall specify on what terms or conditions and at what time the suspension shall terminate. A sentence of suspension may be remitted in such manner as may be provided by Canon.

List of Offences

6. The following are the charges or accusations on which any Bishop, Priest, or Deacon in this Province may be presented for trial:
   (a) An offence involving dishonesty, fraud, moral turpitude or public immorality which has led to conclusive conviction in the criminal courts.
   (b) Sexual Immorality
   (c) Conduct giving just cause for scandal or offence.
   (d) Heresy or false doctrine that is to say, holding and teaching publicly or privately, and advisedly, any doctrine contrary to that held by this Church.
   (e) Schism, that is to say, acceptance or promotion of membership in a religious body not in common with the Church of this Province.
   (f) Apostasy from the Christian Faith.
   (g) Violation of the Constitution and Canons of the Church of this Province.
   (h) Violation of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese to which he belongs.
   (i) Habitual neglect of the exercise of his Ministerial office without cause or habitual neglect of Public Worship and of the Holy Communion according to the order and use of this Church.
   (j) An act which involves a violation of his Ordination vows.

ARTICLE XXIII

ON TH RELATIONS BETWEEN PROVINCE AND DIOCESE

Diocese to be given as much Liberty as possible

1. The Provincial Synod shall deal with matters of common concern to the whole Province and with those that affect the Communion of the Dioceses with one another and of the Province with other Provinces of the Anglican Communion, and shall leave the Diocese to deal with matters which concerns only members of the Church in each Diocese. The decision on the question as to which of the above classes of matters any particular subject belongs shall rest with the Provincial Synod. Nevertheless the Provincial Synod shall exercise the power of making that decision and also its general powers of legislation so as to give to all the Dioceses the greatest possible liberty compatible with the unity and good order of the Church of this Province and to ensure the fullest consultation with them in matters of legislation.

Diocesan Synods to Approve Sub-division or Re-arrangement

2. The sub-division or re-arrangement of new Dioceses shall be deemed to be a matter of common concern for the whole Province, provided that the boundaries of a Diocese may not be altered, nor may it be subdivided, without its own consent expressed through its Diocesan Synod.

ARTICLE XXIV

ON THE MAKING OF PROVINCIAL CANONS, RULES, REGULATIONS, STANDING ORDERS AND BY-LAWS

1. The Provincial Synod shall have full power and authority to make from time to time, such Canons, Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders and By-laws for giving effect to the provisions of this Constitution as the said Provincial Synod shall deem fit, and further, from time to time, to amend, alter, repeal and add to such Canons, Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders and By-Laws.
2. No Canon, Rule, Regulation, Standing Order or By-Law of the Province shall be liable to alteration, amendment, or repeal, and no new Canon shall be added except as hereinafter provided in the Canons of this Province.

ARTICLE XXV

ON AMENDMENT TO DIOCESAN CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Amendments to Diocesan Constitution and Canons

1. It shall be lawful for a Diocesan Synod to amend its Constitution and Canons provided that it does not contravene the Provincial Constitution and Canons.
2. Whenever there are amendments to a Diocesan Constitution and Canons, the amended document shall be filed with the Provincial Secretariat within six months.

ARTICLE XXVI

ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendment of Articles

1. It shall not be lawful to alter, amend or repeal any of the Articles to this Constitution, nor to add any new Article to this Constitution except it shall have been resolved at one session of the Provincial Synod that the alteration, amendment, repeal or addition of such Article is desirable, and such alteration, amendment repeal or addition, be agreed to in the session of the Provincial Synod next ensuing, and it be sent to the Synod of every Diocese between the two aforesaid sessions of the Provincial Synod to be made known to the Dioceses.

Proposals for Amendment

2. Formal notice for alteration, amendment, or repeal of any portion of, or addition to the Constitution may be proposed by the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy, the House of Laity, any Diocesan Synod, or any individual member of the Provincial synod.

Date of Validity

3. Any alterations, amendments to, or repeal of this Constitution when approved by the Provincial Synod, shall be sealed with the Archbishops seal and shall come into force with immediate effect.

ARTICLE XXVII

ON INTERPRETATION

Interpretation

1. If any question should arise as to the interpretation of this Constitution, the interpretation shall be governed by the general principles of Canon Law applicable thereto. The Provincial Synod, should it wish, may seek advice from the Anglican Consultative Council.

ARTICLE XXVIII

ON DEFINITIONS

In the construction and for the purpose of this Constitution, and in the construction and for the purposes of all Articles, Canons, Standing Orders, and Enactments of the Provincial Synod, the following words and expressions, shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively (unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant thereto) viz:

1. By "Archbishop" is meant a Bishop of an Internal Province elected as the Archbishop of the Internal Province in accordance with this Constitution.
2. By "Assistant Bishop" is and shall be meant any resigned or retired Bishop appointed by a Diocesan Bishop of this Province in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
3. By "Bishop Coadjutor" is and shall be meant a Bishop or Priest elected to that office in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, (episcopally consecrated if a Priest is elected) who has the right of succession to the See of the Diocese in which he is Bishop Coadjutor.
4. By "Bishop of the Province" is and shall be meant all Bishops whether Diocesan, Missionary, Coadjutor, Suffragan, Assistant or Retired.
5. By "Bishop Suffragan" is and shall be meant the priest elected by a Diocesan Synod of this Province in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and episcopally consecrated to perform Episcopal duties. His appointment shall not lapse with the election and appointment of a new Diocesan Bishop.
6. By "Canon" is and shall be meant, unless it relates to a person, any decree, decision, rule or law laid down by the Provincial Synod as a fundamental principle governing any particular subject in relation to which it is made.
7. By "Clergy of the Province" is and shall be meant all Priests and Deacons who shall exercise spiritual functions under the authority and spiritual jurisdiction of any Bishop of the Province according to the Regulations of this Province.
8. By "Commissary" is and shall be meant such officer appointed by the Bishop and entrusted by the Bishop with the performance of such duties that may otherwise have to be performed by the Bishop.
9. By "Communicant Member" is and shall be meant a subscribing Member of the Church who shall have received the Holy Communion at least three times in the previous year of which, unless hindered by sufficient cause, Easter shall be one.
10. By "Communicant of the Province" is and shall be meant a baptized and confirmed member of the Church of the Province of West Africa who unless for good cause prevented, shall have received the Holy Communion three times at least during the preceding year.
11. By "Dean of the Province" is and shall be meant the Bishop elected to such office in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
12. By "Diocesan Bishop" is and shall be meant the Bishop for the time being of any Diocese duly elected in accordance with this Constitution and enthroned.
13. By "Diocesan Synod" is and shall be meant an assembly or a convention consisting of the Diocesan Bishop, the Clergy and Laity of a Diocese of the Province constituted according to the Diocesan Constitution and Canons.
14. By "Episcopal Synod" is and shall be meant the Bishops of the Province assembled as an independent body, in accordance with this Constitution.
15. By "Laity of the Province" is and shall be meant all persons who are members of the Church of this Province who are not members of the Orders of Bishops, Priests or Deacons.
16. By "Matter affecting Faith or Order" is and shall be meant such truths as the Church of this Province teaches and those principles on which the structure of the Church is built up and

maintained. Among matters affecting Faith or Orders, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing definition, are included all matters of doctrine, all matters connected with the membership of the Church, the Orders of the Ministry and their characteristic functions, the services and ceremonies of the Church of the Church of this Province, the administration of the Sacraments and the Sacred rites thereof.

17. By "Metropolitan" is meant the Archbishop of an Internal Province elected as Primate and the Archbishop of the Church of West Africa for the time being and, during any vacancy in that office, the other Internal Archbishop.
18. By "Missionary Bishop" is and shall be meant the Bishop who is in charge of any Missionary Diocese which exists or may be created by the Provincial Synod in accordance with this Constitution.
19. By "Privilege of Communicant Status" is and shall be meant eligibility to be elected or appointed to such Orders, Offices or Functions within the Church as are or shall be by the Diocesan Constitution and Canons reserved to Communicant Members.
20. By "Province of West Africa" is and shall be meant a combination under an Archbishop and a Provincial Synod, as herein defined, of the several Anglican Dioceses in West Africa, and such other Dioceses as shall hereafter be added to this combination under the provisions of this Constitution.
21. By "Provincial Synod" is and shall be meant an assembly of the House of Bishops, of Clergy and of Laity of the Province of West Africa, constituted, convened and held in accordance with this Constitution.
22. By "Quorum" is and shall be meant the number of voting members who must be present at a meeting of any Church body in order that business may be validly transacted.
23. By "Regulations" is and shall be meant all the Articles of this Constitution, the Canons and enactments of the Provincial Synod as are intended to have mandatory effect and to enjoin upon any person or persons, as of obligation, to perform or abstain from performing any action or actions.
24. By "Resolutions" is and shall be meant any expressions of the judgment of the Provincial Synod or other body which are intended to have an advisory or hortatory, and not a mandatory, effect.
25. By "Senior Diocesan Bishop" is and shall be meant the Diocesan Bishop senior by date of consecration as such.
26. By "Senior Priest of a Diocese" is and shall be meant a person in a Diocese in Priest's Orders who is most senior in the order of precedence set forth in the schedule hereto annexed.
27. In this Constitution and in any Canons or Regulations made thereunder, unless the contrary intention appears, words importing masculine gender shall include the feminine and words in the singular shall include the plural, and words in the plural shall include the singular.

ARTICLE XXIX

ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

1. Where a dispute arises between the under-mentioned personnel in the Church of the Province of West Africa:
   (a) The Archbishop and a Bishop,
   (b) The Province and a Diocese,
   (c) A member of the Church and the Province or a member of the Church and a Diocese or a Diocesan,
   (d) A member of the Church and a Provincial Official,
   (e) A member and a Diocesan Official,
   (f) A Diocese and another Diocese,

   every effort shall be made to settle the dispute amicably and judiciously.
2. Where an attempt to settle fails under clause (1) of this Article and any of the parties intends to pursue the dispute, the procedure set out in this Article shall apply:
   (a) A written complaint shall be made by any of the parties to the dispute:
      (i) to the Archbishop, where the dispute is with the Province or between Dioceses;
      (ii) to the Diocesan Bishop, where the dispute is with the Diocese or a Diocesan Official;

      provided that where the Archbishop is a party to the dispute the complaint shall be made to the Dean of the Province.
   (b) Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the written complaint the Archbishop or the Dean or the Diocesan Bishop as the case may be shall appoint a Committee to investigate the complaint.
   (c) The Committee shall comprise an odd number of persons of not less than three (3) of whom each party to the dispute shall nominate an equal number and they shall nominate a chairperson.
   (d) The Committee shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Archbishop or the Dean or the Bishop as the case may be.
   (e) The Archbishop or the Dean or the Bishop shall within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the report take a decision which he considers just and appropriate on the basis of the recommendations.
3. An aggrieved party shall have a right of appeal to the Standing Committee of Synod within thirty (30) days whose decision shall be final.
4. Any member of a Church or a party to a dispute under this Article who institutes an action in a State Court without first complying with this procedure set out in this Article shall be liable to be excommunicated from the Church.

ARTICLE XXX

ON TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. After passage of this Revised Constitution and Canons by the Provincial Synod, whenever the Archbishop shall receive notification that two-thirds of the Diocesan Synod of the Dioceses of this Province have given approval to it, the Archbishop shall authenticate and promulgate the Revised Constitution and Canons with the Archbishop's Seal. The Revised Constitution and Canons will then become effective three months from the date of authentication and promulgation by the Archbishop.
2. On the effective date of the Revised Constitution and Canons as determined by Section 1, the Constitution and Canons of the Church of the Province of West Africa as amended in 1982 shall be abrogated.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article IV, Section 1 (f) and Article XI, Section 4, of the Revised Constitution and Canons, the term of office of the incumbent Archbishop shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter I, Article III, of the Constitution and Canons of the Province of West Africa as amended in 1982, and the compulsory retirement age of all Bishops, ordained and consecrated before the effective date of the Revised Constitution and Canons shall remain 70 years as provided in Chapter VII, Article II of the 1982 Constitution and Canons unless a Bishop elects to retire earlier than age 70 for any reason.
4. At the Provincial Synod following authentication and promulgation of the Revised Constitution and Canons by the Archbishop, all Provincial Officers provided for in the said Revised Constitution and Canons shall be appointed and elected in keeping with the provisions of that document.

CANON I

OF THE ELECTION OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Vacancy

1.

(a) When the office of Archbishop is vacant, the Dean of the Province shall summon the Electoral College to meet within two months of the date on which the vacancy occurs.

Resignation or Retirement

(b) When the Archbishop notifies the Dean of his intention to resign or retire and the Dean has, in consultation with the Bishops, accepted the resignation under Article XI of the Constitution, the Dean shall summon the Electoral College to a meeting before the date on which the resignation or retirement is to take effect, to elect a successor.

Holy Communion

(c) On the day of election the Holy Communion shall be celebrated by the Dean of the Province or some other Bishop appointed by him.

Ex-officio members of the Electoral College

(d) The Provincial Chancellor and the Provincial Registrar shall be ex-officio members of the Electoral College without any right to vote unless they are elected members of the Electoral College.

Nomination, how made

(e) Nominations for the Archbishop shall be made by ballot by the voting members of the Electoral College; and the two Bishops having the highest number of the ballot shall be the candidate for election.

Simple Majority

(f) The election shall be by secret ballot and shall be determined by a simple majority of those present and voting.

Promulgation

(g) The Dean of the Province shall cause the name of the newly elected Archbishop to be announced, and shall notify the other Metropolitans of the Anglican Communion the name of the person elected.

Quorum

(h) A quorum of the Electoral College shall be fifty percent of the total membership of the College.

CANON II

OF THE ELECTIONS OF BISHOPS

Procedure in the Province

1.

(a) Whenever a vacancy occurs or is about to occur, or whenever a decision is taken by the Diocesan Synod to elect a Bishop Coadjutor or a Suffragan Bishop, the Diocesan Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority shall within seven days notify the Archbishop in writing.

(b) Upon receipt of the Archbishop's reply, the Diocesan Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority shall promptly notify the Chairman of the Nominating Committee and the Diocesan Synod.

(c) The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall then convene a meeting of the Committee to consider nominations for submission to the Diocesan Synod.

(d) No name of a Diocesan Bishop shall be submitted for nomination unless he consents.

(e) Not less than two and not more than three nominations shall be submitted by the Nominating Committee to the Diocesan Synod.

(f) The Chairman shall make a written report to the Diocesan Synod within seven days of the end of the meeting.

(g) At the next Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Synod following the meeting of the Nominating Committee aforesaid or at a meeting of the Diocesan Synod specially called for that purpose, a Bishop of the Province shall be elected from among the names submitted to it by the Nominating Committee, both Houses of Synod sitting and voting together. Two-thirds of the members present and voting shall be decisive. The voting shall be by secret ballot. At any such meeting, the Diocesan Chancellor shall preside.

(h) When the Nominating Committee submits the two or three nominations to the Diocesan Synod, Synod shall first vote to approve the names submitted by a simple majority vote.

(i) When the nominations are rejected the Nominating Committee shall retire to deliberate and submit other nominations to Synod by adding to, changing nominees or submitting fresh nominations altogether. These can be done three times.

(j) If the nominations are rejected the second and the third time the Nominating Committee shall be dissolved and a new Nominating Committee elected to submit fresh nominations for approval.

(k) The process in (h), (i) and (j) of this paragraph shall be repeated until the nominations are approved by the Synod. These shall all be done the same day.

(l) Where after a third successive votes in (g) of this paragraph a candidate is not elected Synod shall delegate its choice of Bishop to the Bishops of the Province. The names of the nominees remaining shall be forwarded to the Episcopal Synod for it to elect the bishop by two-thirds majority vote.

2.

(a) The Secretary of the Diocesan Synod together with the Registrar shall within seven days of such election submit to the Archbishop under the seal of the Diocese concerned the name of the person elected Bishop and of his acceptance.

(b) Before confirming the election, the Archbishop together with the Provincial Chancellor shall examine the following documents to be presented by the Bishop-Elect:

(i) Certificate or other proof of his Baptism.

(ii) His letters of Orders.

(iii) Letters commendatory or dismissory from the Bishop of his Diocese or the Archbishop of his Province.

(c) If the Archbishop be satisfied that the documents provided by the Bishop-Elect are sufficient, he shall, within three months of receipt thereof seek the approval of the election by a simple majority of the Episcopal Synod in such manner as he shall think fit.

(d) The Archbishop on receipt of the approval of the said election by the Episcopal Synod shall confirm the election and notify the person so elected and shall issue the instrument of confirmation to the Archbishop's commissary, to the Vicar-General or to the Diocese concerned to be proclaimed in the Cathedral and in all Parish Churches during Divine Service on the two Sundays following the receipt of the notification.

(e) After the consecration of the Bishop, the Archbishop shall transmit the name to other Metropolitans of the Anglican Communion.

3. The Archbishop shall, in case the election be not confirmed by the Episcopal Synod, notify the Diocesan Synod of the position and the reasons for such inability. The decision by the Episcopal Synod shall be final; and the candidate whose election was not confirmed, shall no longer be eligible to stand for election. The Archbishop shall, at the same time, order that a new elections be held by the Diocesan Synod within three months following in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution relating to the election and appointment of a Bishop of this Province.

CANON III

OF THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD

Ordinary Meeting

1. The Provincial Synod shall meet at least once in every three years.

Clerical and Lay Representatives

2. Each Diocese in this Province shall be represented by not more than three Clerical and not more than three Lay Representatives elected or appointed in such manner as the Diocesan Constitution and Canons or the Diocesan Synod may determine.

Quorum for Synod

3. At least one-third of the members of each of the three Houses of Bishops, Clerical and Laity shall be present for the transaction of business in the Provincial Synod; and it shall be competent for any member of the Synod at any time to call for the counting of members present.

Quorum for House of Bishops

4. A majority of all Bishops entitled to vote, excluding resigned or retired Bishops, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of businesses.

Quorum for House of Clergy

5. The quorum for the House of Clergy meeting separately shall be one-half of its total membership.

Quorum for House of Laity

6. The quorum for the House of Laity meeting separately shall be one-half of its total membership.

Passage of Motions

7. A motion in the House of Clergy and in the House of Laity shall be deemed to have been carried in the said Houses if a majority of their membership present and voting votes for it.

Certificate of Representatives

8. The Bishop of each Diocese shall cause the names of the Representatives of that Diocese to be sent or the Provincial Secretary, copied to the Provincial Registrar, not less than two months before the session of the Synod; and he shall certify that the said Representatives, both Clerical and Lay, are duly qualified and have been elected or appointed.

Printing Committee

9.

(a) Before the conclusion of business at any session of the Provincial Synod, a Printing Committee shall be appointed in such manner as the Synod may from time to time determine to perform such duties as the Synod may assign to it.

Authentication

(b) The enactment of the Synod at that session should be authenticated by the President in the presence of Synod. The Printing Committee shall cause the said enactment, together with such other of its proceedings as the Synod may have ordered to be published, to be carefully printed for the general use of the Church. The said Committee shall transmit to each Bishop a copy of the enactments and proceedings so printed for the information of the Diocesan Synod; and each Bishop shall notify, in such manner as he shall see fit, to all the congregations in his Diocese, the alterations that have been made in the Constitution and Canons of this Province.

CANON IV

OF THE PROVINCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE

Membership of Standing Committee

1. The Provincial Standing Committee shall consist only of such persons as are members of the Provincial Synod. The Archbishop shall be Chairman of the Committee and, in his absence, the Dean of the Province shall be Chairman. If neither the Archbishop nor the Dean of the Province is present, the Committee shall elect its own Chairman.

Ex-officio Members

2. The Provincial Chancellor, Provincial Registrar, Provincial Secretary and Provincial Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

Election of Members

3. At each meeting of the Provincial Synod, each of the three Houses shall elect from its members, to become members of the Provincial Standing Committee, all Diocesan Bishops, three members of the House of Clergy and four members of the House of Laity.

Election of Panel to fill Vacancies

4. When the members of the Committee have been elected, the Clerical representatives on the Provincial Synod of each Diocese of the Province shall elect one of their number, and the Lay Representatives on the Provincial Synod of each Diocese of the Province shall elect one of their number to form, together with the Diocesan Bishop, a panel from which the Archbishop shall be entitled to nominate not more than two persons as additional members of the Committee, and from which the Archbishop shall be entitled to draw such persons as may be required to fill vacancies which may occur in the membership of the Committee through death, resignation or any other cause.

Quorum

5. A quorum for meeting shall be six members which shall include at least two Lay members, one Clerical member, the Archbishop and two other Diocesan Bishops.

CANON V

OF THE DIVISION OF A DIOCESE AND RELATED MATTERS

Proposal of Division of Diocese to originate in Synod

1.

(a) Any proposal for the division of a Diocese or for the rearrangement of the territorial limits of any two or more Dioceses whether by revision of any boundary common to them or otherwise or for the amalgamation of any two or more Dioceses shall be submitted to the Synod of the Diocese or of each of the Dioceses concerned for consideration.

What proposal should contain

(b) When approved by the Synod or Synods concerned, the written proposals shall be submitted by the Bishop of the Diocese or each of the Dioceses concerned to the Archbishop and the said proposal shall contain the following:

(i) A copy of the relevant resolution of the Synod of the Diocese or each of the Dioceses concerned;

(ii) All such information as shall be necessary to show that the proposed change is desirable, that substantial spiritual benefits and administrative or financial advantages may reasonably be expected to accrue therefrom and, in the case of any change involving the division of a Diocese or a reduction in its territorial limits, that each of the proposed new Dioceses and the residual Diocese will be spiritually, administratively and financially viable;

(iii) A map showing the proposed new boundaries of the Diocese or Dioceses concerned;

(iv) In the case of a division of a Diocese, a statement by the Bishop of that Diocese stipulating which part of the Diocese he intends to retain within his own jurisdiction, and which part or parts he intends to relinquish;

(v) In the case of an amalgamation of two or more Dioceses, the written resignation of the Bishop of each of the Dioceses concerned, made conditional upon the proposal being approved; and

(vi) Such further information as may be considered requisite.

Consultation of Archbishop after receipt of proposal

(c) The Archbishop shall, upon receipt of the written proposal, consult all of the Diocesan Bishops, as well as the Provincial Chancellor and such other Provincial Officers as he may desire, and request them to submit their advice, views or other assistance as the Archbishop may see fit.

Questions raised, how handled

(d) Any objections, criticisms, suggestions or questions raised by the Archbishop, the Diocesan Bishops, the Provincial Chancellor or any other Provincial Officer shall be communicated by the Archbishop to the Bishop of the Diocese or each of the Dioceses concerned and request him or them to send their comments.

Handling Replies

(e) The Archbishop shall communicate to all the persons consulted the reply or replies received and invite their further views or other advice and shall continue this process of consultation and inquiry until a majority, including the Archbishop, indicates approval of the proposal. During the consultation process, the proposal may be revised, amended or withdrawn by the Bishop of the Diocese and his Diocesan Synod or each of the Dioceses and the Diocesan Synods concerned.

Proposal to Provincial Synod

(f) After approval by the Archbishop and a majority of the Diocesan Bishops in accordance with the procedure outlined herein, the Archbishop shall submit the proposals to the Provincial Synod for its approval or rejection. If the approval given by the Provincial Synod is conditional, the conditions shall be set out in writing and the Archbishop shall inform the Bishop of the Diocese or of each of the Dioceses concerned of the conditions and request their compliance. If the conditions are not complied with, the Archbishop shall inform the Provincial Standing Committee and the proposal shall be deemed to have been rejected by the Provincial Synod. The Provincial Standing Committee shall satisfy itself that the conditions have been complied with before implementation of the proposal.

After approval Archbishop and Provincial Standing Committee to implement

(g) Following final approval by the Provincial Synod, the Archbishop shall, in consultation with the Provincial Standing Committee, determine the steps to give full implementation to the decision of the Provincial Synod. These steps shall include, but not be limited to, the organization of a Primary Synod, the drafting of Constitution and Canons, the relinquishment of jurisdiction by the Bishop or Bishops concerned, and the election of a Bishop for the new Diocese.

Archbishop may alter procedure

(h) If the Archbishop considers that a proposal involves minor changes, he may, in spite of the procedure outlined herein, present it directly to the Provincial Synod.

CANON VI

OF THE APPOINTMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF PROVINCIAL OFFICERS

Provincial Chancellor

1.

(a) There shall be a Provincial Chancellor, who shall be elected by the Provincial Synod, upon the recommendation of the Archbishop. He shall be a communicant of the Church of this Province, learned in the law. He shall be an ex-officio member of the Provincial Synod and of the Provincial Standing Committee.

Duties

(b) His primary duty is to be available to the Archbishop to advise him on matters relating to the civil or ecclesiastical law that may arise in the administration of the Province and to render the Archbishop such assistance as he may require. The Archbishop is not bound by the advice given by the Chancellor.

(c) The Provincial Chancellor's appointment shall terminate with that of the Archbishop on whose recommendation he has been elected.

Provincial Registrar

2.

(a) There shall be a Provincial Registrar, who shall be appointed for a term of six years by the Provincial Synod, and he may be reelected. He shall be a communicant of the Church of this Province learned in the Law and with experience in administration. He shall be an ex-officio member of the Provincial Synod and of the Provincial Standing Committee.

Duties

(b) The Provincial Registrar shall be responsible for the Provincial Archives and shall ensure that minutes of the Provincial Synod and any bodies created by it are properly stored in the Archives. He shall be present at every election of an Archbishop of the Church of this Province to assist the Provincial Chancellor in the formalities of the election but without right to vote. He shall also inform the Archbishop and the Provincial Standing Committee of the date upon which the Archbishop is due to retire and also to inform each Diocesan Bishop of the date on which such Diocesan Bishop is to retire.

Provincial Secretary

3.

(a) The Provincial Secretary shall be appointed by the Archbishop with the consent of the Provincial Standing Committee.

Duties

(b) He shall have primary responsibilities for the operation of the office of the Province. He shall keep the minutes of the Provincial Synod and of the Provincial Standing Committee and be responsible for the printing of the Journal of the Provincial Synod as well as such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Archbishop, the Provincial Synod or the Provincial Standing Committee.

Provincial Treasurer

4.

(a) The Provincial Treasurer shall be elected by the Provincial Synod for a term of three years and he shall remain in office until his successor shall be elected.

Duties

(b) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and disburse all funds collected under the authority of the Provincial Synod. He shall, from time to time, invest such surplus funds as he may have with the approval of the Archbishop and the Provincial Standing Committee.

Clerical and Lay Secretaries

5.

(a) The Clerical Secretary of Synod and the Lay Secretary of Synod shall be elected by the Provincial Synod at the beginning of each session of Synod.

Duties

(b) They shall assist the Provincial Secretary in keeping the minutes of the meetings of the Provincial Synod and of the Provincial Standing Committee, keep the minutes of their respective Houses, and perform such other functions as may be assigned to them by the Provincial Standing Committee from time to time.

Inability of Officers to perform

6. Should any of the Provincial Officers be unable to perform his duties, the Archbishop, after consultation with the Prolocutor and the Chairman of the House of Laity, shall appoint someone to act until the next ordinary session of the Synod.

CANON VII

OF MARRIAGE

Marriage

1. The Church of the Province of West Africa believes that marriage, by Divine Institution, is a life-long and exclusive union and partnership between one man and one woman. Its laws and regulations are based upon this belief.

Legal and Canonical Requirements

2. Every Minister of this Church shall conform to the laws of the country governing the creation of the civil status of marriage, and also to the laws of this Church governing the solemnization of Holy Matrimony.

Rites of the Church

3.

(a) Solemnization of Holy Matrimony by the Rites of the Church is reserved to those who are baptized unless, in the case of a marriage proposed between a baptized person and an unbaptized person, a dispensation be granted by the Bishop.

(b) If such a dispensation is to be granted, the Bishop must first be satisfied:

(i) That both parties to the proposed marriage recognize that the marriage will be a Christian marriage identical in status to a marriage between baptized persons.

(ii) That the unbaptized person intends to live with the baptized person according to the Christian law of marriage;

(iii) That both parties to the proposed marriage intend and will give an undertaking that any children resulting from the marriage shall be baptized and brought up as Christians.

Conditions

4. No Minister of this Church shall solemnize any marriage unless the following conditions are complied with;
   (a) He shall have ascertained the right of the parties to contract a marriage according to the laws of the country.
   (b) He shall have ascertained that both parties understand that Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind and will, and with intent that it be lifelong.
   (c) He shall have ascertained that both parties freely and knowingly consent to such marriage, without fraud, coercion, mistake as to identity of a partner, or mental reservations.
   (d) He shall have ascertained that at least one of the parties has received Holy Baptism.
   (e) He shall have instructed both parties as to the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony, or have ascertained that they both receive such instruction from persons known by him to be competent and responsible.

Procedures

5. Every Minister of this Church shall pursue the following procedures before solemnizing any marriage;
   (a) The intention of the parties to contract marriage shall have been signified to the Minister at least thirty days before the service of solemnization; provided that, for weighty cause, the Minister may dispense with this requirement, if one of the parties is a member of his congregation, or can furnish satisfactory evidence of his responsibility. In case the thirty-day notice is waived, the Minister shall report his action in writing to the Bishop without delay.
   (b) There shall be present at least two witnesses to the solemnization of the marriage.
   (c) The Minister shall record in the proper register the date and place of the marriage, the names of the parties and their parents, the age of the parties, their residences, and their church status. The Minister and the witnesses shall sign the record.
   (d) The Minister shall have required that the parties sign an appropriate declaration.

Marriage

6. The form of Solemnization of Holy Matrimony shall not be used in the case of a proposed marriage in which either of the parties shall have been married by Christian Rites or another form of monogamous marriage to a person or persons still living except as following:
   (a) The Minister shall have satisfied himself by appropriate evidence that the prior marriage has been annulled or dissolved by a final judgment or decree of a civil court of competent jurisdiction.
   (b) The Minister shall have instructed the parties that continuing concern should be shown for the well-being of the former spouse, and of any children of the prior marriage.
   (c) The Minister shall consult with and obtain the consent of the Bishop prior to, and shall report to the Bishop, the solemnization of any marriage under this provision.

Application to Bishop for judgment on Marital Status

7. Any member of this Church whose marriage has been annulled or dissolved by a civil court may apply to the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority of a Diocese for a judgment as to his or her marital status in the eyes of the Church. Such judgment may be recognition of the nullity or of the termination of the said marriage; provided that no such judgment shall be construed as affecting in any way the legitimacy of children or the civil validity of the former relationship.

8.

(a) Where two baptized persons are living together as man and wife, their union not having been solemnized by the Rites of the Church, the Bishop may, at his discretion, give permission for one or both of the persons to be presented for Confirmation and/or admitted to Holy Communion; provided that the Bishop shall first be satisfied inter alia that the persons have been married under native customary law or under some generally accepted law and that they are without other partners. Such permission, if given, shall not include the remaining privileges of Communicant status.

Marriage under non-Christian law

(b) Where two persons living together as man and wife under native customary law or any other generally accepted law and without other partners are admitted to Holy Baptism, their marriage is ipso facto raised to the status of Christian Marriage. The Church shall formally recognize this fact by bestowing upon it a form of blessing.

Marriage by non-Christian

(c) A marriage contracted by non-Christian is not raised to the status of Christian Marriage by the Baptism of one of the partners only. If after such Baptism the unbaptised partner is unwilling to remain peacefully and without offence to God with the baptized partner without seeking to induce him/her to break any Christian Law or prevent the baptism and Christian upbringing of the children, it is possible for the baptized partner to take advantage of the "Privilegium Paulinum" (1 Corinthians 7:12-16). If this course is desired, application shall be made to the Bishop, who shall satisfy himself by direct approach to the unbaptised partner to contract a new and Christian Marriage. Until the former marriage is dissolved the baptized partner may follow his/her conscience in regard to cohabitation.

Local Custom

(d) Where local practice in regard to marriage is not repugnant to Christian Doctrine or Law, observance of practice by two persons desiring to be married by the Rites of the Church shall not constitute a reason for refusing such Rites to them nor shall it be held in disrepute by the Church; provided that the priest who solemnizes the marriage shall be satisfied that both persons are conversant with the principles of Christian Marriage and intend that their marriage shall be monogamous and indissoluble. In case of any doubt as to whether any local practice is repugnant to Christian Doctrine Law, the ruling of the Bishop shall be final.

Polygamy

9.

(a) Unless under exceptional circumstances and with the direct permission of the Bishop given in writing, no man living as a polygamist shall be admitted to Holy Baptism. A baptized person who becomes polygamist shall not be admitted to Confirmation or Holy Communion.

(b) The wives of a polygamist may, subject to the provisions of Canon VII, Section 10(e), be admitted to Holy Baptism and shall not be precluded from Confirmation and Holy Communion solely on account of such marital circumstances.

Discipline

10.

(a) A Communicant member of the Church who marries a non-Christian, except it be within the terms and conditions of Canon VII, Section 3(b), shall be suspended from the reception of Holy Communion until such time as, in the discretion of the Bishop, he/she shall be restored thereto or until such time as the non-Christian partner shall have been fulfilled; such restoration to Holy Communion shall not include the remaining privileges of Communicant status until the non-Christian partner shall have been baptized.

(b) A Communicant member of the Church who, having obtained a divorce, contracts a new union except as provided in Canon VII, Section 6 or 7, may be suspended from the reception of Holy Communion.

Provision for re-admission to Holy Communion

(c) Confirmed members of the Church who are living together as man and wife under native customary law or other generally accepted law and without other partners but who are not eligible to be married by the Rites of the Church during the lifetime of a former partner may, nevertheless, at the discretion of the Bishop, be readmitted to Holy Communion; such re-admission shall not be permissible until this union shall have proved stable and in any case not within a period of six months from the date of the remarriage.

Baptized persons living together

(d) Baptized persons who are living with one partner alone to the exclusion of all others and who intend this union to be monogamous and indissoluble but are not eligible to be married by the Rites of the Church during the lifetime of a former partner may not be presented to the Bishop to be confirmed without special reference to the Bishop before the commencement of preparation for Confirmation.

Baptized members marrying Polygamists

(e) A baptized member of the Church who marries a polygamist shall not be eligible for Confirmation. A Communicant member who marries a polygamist shall be suspended from Holy Communion as long as such a union shall exist; unless under exceptional circumstances the permission of the Bishop in writing shall have first been obtained for Confirmation or restoration to Holy Communion as the case may be.

CANON VIII

OF COMMISSIONS ON MINISTRY

Diocesan Commission on Ministry

1.

(a) In any Diocese there shall be established a Commission on Ministry on the Clergy and the Laity. The number of members, terms of office and manner of selection to the Commission on Ministry shall be determined by Diocesan Canons.

To adopt its own Rules

(b) The Commission on Ministry may adopt rules for the work subject to approval of the Bishop; provided the same are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Church of the Province.

Functions

2. The Commission shall arrange and discharge the following duties:
   (a) Shall assist the Bishop in determining present and future needs for the ministry of the Diocese.
   (b) Formulate and recommend policy on the selection and education for the sacred ministry including post ordination training.
   (c) Interview such candidate before his ordination to the Diaconate and, at their direction, before his ordination to the priesthood, to ascertain his personal readiness for such ordination; and shall report in writing without delay the findings of this interview to the Bishop and the Diocesan Standing Committee.
   (d) Such other matters relating to the ministry as may be authorized by the Bishop.
   (e) To promote, encourage and develop the ministry of the Laity and to consider places for lay education.
   (f) To provide for continuing study and development of the parishes and ministries.

CACNON IX

OF PROBATIONARY PERIODS BEFORE ENTRY INTO HOLY ORDERS

Diocesan Canons to set out Regulations and procedures relating to probationary status for Holy Orders

1. Each Diocese shall prescribe in its Canons such regulations as it may consider appropriate relating to probationary status of persons who may wish to enter Holy Orders.
2. The Canon shall clearly set out the procedures to be followed, the role of the Bishop and the various stages.

CANON X

OF ORDINATION TO THE DIOCONATE

Diocesan may delegate authority to other Bishops

1. The authority, given in this Canon and the succeeding Canon on ordination to the Priesthood, to be exercised by the Diocesan Bishop, may be exercised by a Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one, or by a Suffragan Bishop or an Assistant Bishop when properly authorized by the Diocesan Bishop.

Canonical requirements must be met

2. No appointment for the ordination of any candidate shall be made until the Bishop is satisfied that all the canonical requirements have been met.

Minimum age for Deacon

3. No one shall be ordered a Deacon unless he is at least twenty-one years old.

Diocese to state training period etc.

4. The Diocese shall state the required training period, the procedures and the required documentation to be presented before there can be ordination to the Diaconate. The Bishop has discretionary power to reduce the probationary period provided that in no case should it be reduced below six months.

Medical Examination of candidate

5. Before the ordination of a Deacon, the Bishop shall require the applicant to submit to a thorough examination, covering both mental and physical condition, by licensed professionals selected by the Bishop.

Bishop to take order after all requirements have been fulfilled

6. When all procedures and regulations have been fulfilled, the Bishop may take order for ordination, and, at the time of ordination, the appropriate declaration shall be required of the Candidate.

CANON XI

OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Minimum age for Priest

1. No one shall be ordained Priest until he is at least twenty-four years old.

Deacon must serve minimum six months

2. No one shall be ordained Priest until he has been a Deacon one full year unless the Bishop deems it necessary, for good cause, to shorten the time, but such shortened period should not be less than six months.

Deacon to serve in parochial cure

3. No deacon shall be ordained Priest until he shall have been appointed to serve in some Parochial Cure within the Diocese.

Diocesan Canons to prescribe documents for submission to Bishop

4. The Diocesan Canons shall set out the procedures for the Deacon to pursue and the documents required for a Deacon to submit prior to the Bishop taking order for ordination.

Medical Examination

5. Before the ordination of a Priest, the Bishop shall require applicant to submit to a thorough examination, covering both mental and physical condition by licensed professionals selected by the Bishop.

Appropriate declaration to be made at Ordination

6. At the time of ordination the Bishop shall require the Deacon to subscribe to the appropriate declaration.

CANON XII

ON ADMISSION TO HOLY ORDERS IN SPECIAL CASES

Non-stipendiary Deacons and Priests

1. The Bishop of the Diocese, with advice from an appropriate organization in his Diocese, may make rules and regulations prescribing how persons, who will retain secular occupations, may be ordained to the Diaconate or the Priesthood with the qualifications that will be required.

Modification of Standard of learning

2. In such cases, the Bishop may direct the Commission on Ministry to modify the prescribed Normal Standard of Learning for such persons.

Change of Status

3. The Bishop shall determine the conditions under which a Priest or a Deacon ordained under this Canon may change the non-stipendiary status.

CANON XIII

ON LAY READERS

Lay persons may assist in Service

1. An ordained Minister in charge of a Congregation may appoint competent Lay Persons to read such portions of the service of public worship as the Book of Common Prayer and these Canons allow.

Licensed Lay Readers

2.

(a) An ordained Minister in charge of a Congregation at his discretion may recommend a competent person, who is desirous to serve the Church in the conduct of public worship as a Lay Reader, to the Bishop in order to obtain the Bishop's license.

Qualification and requirements

(b) The person recommended by the Minister should be regular in participating in the Worship of the Church and in receiving the Holy Communion as well as active in the support of his Mission or Parish. The Priest should furnish the Bishop important facts about the recommended person including, but not limited to, age, scholastic training, general activities and fitness for the position.

Special qualifications if given administrative responsibilities

(c) If a Lay Reader is to be assigned pastoral or administrative responsibility in a Congregation which does not have an ordained Minister, he shall be trained, examined and found competent in such subjects as may be determined by the Commission on Ministers and approved by the Bishop.

Use of Lay Persons not licensed

3. These provisions should not be interpreted as preventing Lay Persons not licensed as Lay Readers from assisting an ordained Minister when such persons are authorized by the Bishop.

Period of license and renewal

4. The license of a Lay Reader shall be granted for a definite period, not to exceed two years and may be renewed or revoked at any time at the discretion of the Bishop. Renewal shall be determined on the basis of appropriate periodic assessment of the Lay Reader's performance, such assessment to be given to the Bishop in writing by the Minister.

Conduct of service directions and restrictions

5. The Lay Reader shall conform to the directions of the Member of the Clergy in charge of the congregation in matters relating to the conduct of the service, attire etc. and, in all cases, to the direction of the Bishop. He shall read only the offices or parts thereof as provided for in the Book of Common Prayer. He shall not deliver sermons or addresses of his own composition unless specially licensed thereto by the Bishop.

Administration of Chalice by Lay Readers under special license

6. A Lay Reader may deliver the chalice of Holy Communion only if he has been specially licensed thereto by the Bishop. Such special license shall be given only at the request, and upon the recommendation, of the Minister in charge of the Congregation in which the Lay Reader is serving. The license should be for a period of two years and shall be revocable at any time by the Bishop, or by the Minister in charge of the Congregation.

CANON XIV

OF CHURCH RECORDS

Annual Report of individual churches

1. A report of every Parish and other Congregation shall be prepared annually for the year ending December 31 preceding and shall be sent in duplicate to the Bishop of the Diocese not later than January 31. The preparation and delivery of the report shall be the duty of the Rector, the Priest-in-charge, the Vicar or the Minister in charge with the Vestry or the Bishop's Committee or any other such organization approved by the Bishop.

What reports should contain

2. The report shall include the following information:
   (a) The number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials during the year;
   (b) The total number of baptized persons and communicants in good standing at the time of the report;
   (c) A summary of all the receipts and expenditures;
   (d) A statement of the property held by the church, real or personal, together with a statement of the indebtedness of the church, if any, and of the amount of insurance;
   (e) Any other relevant information to give an accurate view of the state of the church.

Annual Diocesan Reports

3. Likewise, a report of every Diocese shall be prepared annually for the year ending December 31 upon the form approved by the Provincial Standing Committee and sent to the Archbishop.

Diocesan Journals

4. The Secretary of each Diocesan Synod shall forward a copy of the Journal of the Synod, which shall include the Episcopal charges, immediately upon publication to the Archbishop and to the Provincial Secretary for the archives of this Province.

CANON XV

OF THE BUSINESS METHODS IN THE CHURCH

Proper business practices to be observed

1. In every Diocese and organizations connected with the Diocese, proper business practices are to be observed.
2. The following shall constitute some of the proper practices but are not limited to them.
   (a) Records shall be made and kept of all properties, real, personal or mixed, which belongs to the Diocese or the organization; and, whenever possible, funds, deeds, leases, and evidence of the gifts shall be secured in banks, safe deposit boxes of banks or in safes provided by the organization.

(b) Treasurers and custodians of such property shall be adequately bonded.
(c) Books of account shall be kept in accordance with proper accounting principles so as to provide the basis for adequate auditing.
(d) All accounts of the diocese and its organizations shall be audited annually by an independent Certified Public Accountant, or by an independent Licensed Public Accountant, and the report submitted to the Diocesan Synod or any organization to which the Diocesan Synod wishes the report submitted.
(e) All buildings shall be adequately insured.
(f) The fiscal year of every Diocese and all organizations connected with the Diocese shall begin January 1 and December 31.

CANON XVI

OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS, INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Right to invite and conditions prior to Exercise of right

1.

(a) Each Diocese has the right, if it wishes, to invite any Religious Order, Institution or Christian Community, which may be a society of Christians, to operate within the Diocese.
(b) Prior to the exercise of this right, the Diocese should:
  (i) assure itself that such Organization is properly organized and in communion with the See of Canterbury;
  (ii) consult with the Archbishop and Primate of the Province and furnish him the Organization's Constitution and Regulations and evidence that the Organization is in communion with the See of Canterbury;
  (iii) take care that appropriate terms are agreed upon for the Organization's operation in the Diocese. Such terms shall include conditions as set out in Section 2(c) of this Canon.

Conditions prior to Establishment

2.

(a) Before a Religious Order, Institution or other Christian Community can establish a house in any Diocese of this Province, it has to obtain the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese and the Standing Committee of the Diocese.
(b) The Diocesan Bishop shall arrange with the Organization appropriate terms setting out the conditions under which permission is given.
(c) Such conditions shall include, but not be limited to, the ownership and administration of the temporal possessions of the Organization, as well as in the event of its dissolution or should it otherwise cease to exist; provision for the disposition of its assets according to law; the question of ordinations of members of the Organization, as the case may be;

pastoral visitations by the Diocesan Bishop or other Bishops in the Diocese; the removal from the Diocese of a member of the Organization and the settlement of any disputes that may arise between the organization and the Diocese.

(d) The conditions elaborated under Section 1(b)(iii) and Section 2(c) shall be communicated to the Archbishop for deposit with the Secretariat of the Province.

CANON XVII

OF ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

Limitation of time for presentation of charges

1. No original proceedings shall be instituted before any Tribunal of the Province if more than three years have elapsed since the date of the alleged offence, except leave be given for a further extension of time by the Archbishop under his hand and seal; or except the proceedings be grounded upon a finding of a Civil or Criminal Court, in which case such limitation shall not apply, if such proceedings be commenced within six calendar months of such findings having been pronounced.

Particulars of Articles of Presentment

2. All charges shall be in a written document signed by the presenters titled, "Articles of Presentment", wherein shall be specified all the particulars of time, place and circumstances alleged by the presenters, intimation being made of the name and address of some person, to whom all necessary communications in the cause shall be made, as the agent of the presenters.

Tribunal in Diocese for trial of Priests and Deacons

3. Each Diocese shall by Canon establish a Tribunal for the Trial of any Priest or Deacon in the Diocese and provide for the manner of conducting trials in such Tribunal.

Story of Proceedings pending appeal

4.

(a) When Diocesan Tribunal finds the Priest or Deacon guilty, no sentence shall be passed by the Bishop until thirty days after the receipt of the decision of the Tribunal.

(b) The Priest or Deacon found guilty by the Diocesan Tribunal shall have a right of appeal within seven days of conviction to the Archbishop who shall direct that the case be reviewed by a Provincial Tribunal of Review.

(c) All records of proceedings shall be forwarded to the Archbishop not later than thirty days after the filing of the appeal.

(d) Where an appeal is pending the Bishop shall not pass sentence on the Priest or Deacon.

5.

(a) The following sentences may be imposed after a finding of guilty.

For publicly maintaining doctrines contrary to the Church's teaching

(i) For publicly and advisedly maintaining doctrines or opinions contrary to the teachings of the Church, unless he shall formally retract the same within fifteen days after sentence is given, 1) inhibition from preaching or suspension for a term not exceeding three years; provided that if at the expiration of any such sentence he shall thereupon be deprived; or 2) deprivation, or 3) deposition.

For willful neglect in the conduct of service

(ii) For refusing or willfully neglecting to use in public prayer and administration of the Sacraments and other Holy Offices the forms authorized under the Canon of this Constitution; formal admonition or suspension for a term not exceeding twelve months; and further, until he shall have engaged to conform in future.

For neglect of duty

(iii) For general neglect of duty (after admonition by the Bishop) suspension for a term not exceeding twelve months; and further until he shall have engaged to conform in future.

For refusal of duty

(iv) For refusing, without good and sufficient reason, to perform for any member of the Church, belonging to his care and not under the ministerial office, formal admonition or suspension for a term not exceeding three months: and further, until he shall have engaged to conform in future.

For immorality

(v) For immoral conduct suspension for a term not exceeding three years, or deprivation.

For unbecoming conduct

(vi) For conduct, giving just cause of scandal or offence or otherwise unbecoming a Clergyman, formal admonition or suspension for a term not exceeding three months: and further, until he shall engage not to repeat the offence.

For disobedience

(vii) For willful contravention of any enactment of the Provincial Synod, or of the Diocesan Synod (in matters not otherwise provided for), or for refusal to obey a lawful command of his Ordinary, formal admonition or suspension for a term not exceeding six months: and further, until he shall have engaged to conform in future.

Special sentence

(viii) In addition to any of the above sentence the court may suspend the accused from receiving Holy Communion for such a period as it may determine, or pass a sentence of excommunication.

(b) The judicial sentences above mentioned shall be interpreted as follows:

Admonition

(i) By a formal admonition is meant a written admonition delivered either in public or in private, as the circumstances may seem to the Bishop to require.

Suspension

(ii) Suspension means the removal of a clergyman from a named charge or office for such period as may be determined in the sentence of suspension. No clergyman suspended has during the period of suspension any claim to any salary, pension or office, and the sentence of suspension shall set forth whether he is deprived of all or any part of such salary, pension and allowances.

Deprivation

(iii) Deprivation means the final removal of a clergyman from a named charge office.

Withdrawal of license

(iv) A Bishop may at his discretion withdraw or not withdraw his license from a clergyman who is suspended or deprived of his charge or office.

Deposition

(v) Deposition or permanent inhibition means the withdrawal from a clergyman of all power to exercise his sacred calling either publicly or privately within the Church of the Province. A sentence or deposition shall of its own force cancel the license of the deposed clergyman.

Refusal to abjure

(vi) By refusal to abjure is meant failure to deliver to the Bishop or in the case of a Bishop, to the Archbishop within fourteen days after the expiration of sentence of inhibition or suspension as abjuration in writing of the doctrine or opinions in respect of which he was found guilty and sentenced.

Engaging to conform

(vii) By engaging to conform is meant delivering to the Bishop or in the case of a Bishop, to the Archbishop within fourteen days after the expiration of sentence of inhibition or suspension an undertaking in writing not to engage in or repeat the kind of conduct or offence for which he was found guilty and sentenced.

Lesser sentence

(c) The Bishop of the Diocese has authority in his discretion to pronounce a lesser sentence than that recommended by the Tribunal.

Review by Archbishop

6. Whenever a sentence has been passed by the Bishop, the Archbishop may within thirty days review the said sentence if it shall appear to him that there are cogent reasons for believing that

the sentence was founded on some error, either as to the facts of the case or as to law of the Church.

Pending appeal

7. Where there is an appeal pending before the Provincial Tribunal of Review any sentence passed by the Bishop shall be suspended during the appeal, except in case of a sentence for immoral conduct or heresy.

Composition of Review Tribunal

8. There shall be a Provincial Tribunal of Review to hear appeals from the Diocesan Tribunal. It shall be composed of one Bishop, two Priests and two Lay Communicants, one of whom shall be learned in the law.

Presiding Officer

9. The Provincial Synod shall elect members of the Provincial Tribunal of Review, prescribe the time and the manner in which such members shall be elected. The Bishop elected shall be the Presiding Officer of the Tribunal and, except in case of death, resignation, retirement, refusal or inability to serve, persons elected shall serve until their successors shall have been elected.

Relationships which disqualify

10. No persons shall sit as a member of any Tribunal of Review who is a presenter of charges or is related to the accused or either of them by affinity of consanguinity; nor shall any Bishop, nor any Priest, nor any Lay Member of the Diocese, in which the Trial was held, be competent to sit on an appeal from the decision on such trial; nor shall any Bishop, Priest or any Lay Member who for any reason upon objection made by either party is deemed by the other members of the Tribunal to be disqualified.

Action by Provincial Tribunal of Review

11. The Provincial Tribunal of Review may affirm, modify or amend the judgment or sentence appealed against, or pass any judgment or sentence in the case, as it thinks just.

Refusal to Obey Sentence

12. Any person against whop judgment has been given, who shall refuse to obey the sentence of any Tribunal of the Province shall be excommunicated unless, for reasons which must be notified in open court, the Archbishop or the Bishop, as the case maybe, shall decide that it is undesirable to proceed to extreme measure of excommunication. The Archbishop or the Bishop shall after giving notice, pronounce the sentence.
13. Every Tribunal of the Province shall keep a full record of its proceedings, including the Articles of Presentment, with the names of the presenters and the accused, the evidence, the opinions of the Clerical or Lay Assessors and the judgment. The records shall be preserved in the Registry of the Diocese.

Trial of Bishops

Court for Trial of Bishops

14. There shall be established by the Episcopal Synod a Court for the Trial of Bishops consisting of at least three Bishops of the Province. The President of the Court shall be designated by the Archbishop.

Summon Court within three months

15. A Bishop of the Province shall, where charges are brought against him, be tried by the said Court. When the President of the Court for the Trial of a Bishop receives a presentment he shall summon the court to meet at a time and place within the Diocese of the accused Bishop within four months of receipt of the presentment.

How charges are to be made

16. No charge shall be received against a Bishop of the Province unless it be preferred, if it relates to a matter of Faith and Doctrine, by at least five priests of the Diocese, or by a Bishop of the Province or, if it relates to other matters, by at least three Priests of the Diocese and also three Lay Representatives of the Diocese of the accused Bishop.

Accusation to be made to Archbishop

17. In the case of an accusation against a Bishop of the Province, the Articles of Presentment shall be delivered to the Archbishop, except he be the accused, in which case they shall be delivered to the Dean of the Province.

Manner of serving accusation

18. Upon receipt of the Articles of Presentment, the Archbishop shall transmit a copy to the accused and copies to the members of the Court for a Trial of a Bishop at the earliest moment to the residential address of each person by registered post.

Clerical and Lay Assessors

19. In the trial of a Bishop, the President of the Court may appoint three Clerical Assessors; and he may, except on charges of heresy, also appoint one or two persons as Lay Assessor or Assessors as provided herein.
20. The accused shall in all cases have the right to be a witness on his own behalf, subject to cross-examination in the same manner as any other witness. Witnesses at the trial shall read aloud and sign the following declaration to be filed with the records of the Court.

Oath of Witness

"I……, a witness on the trial of a presentment against the Right Reverend ……, a Bishop of the Church of the Province of West Africa, now pending, do most solemnly call God to witness that the evidence I am about to give shall be the truth and nothing but the truth, 'so help me God'.

Defense in writing

21. The accused may, if he sees fit, submit his defense in writing.

Sentence

22. The sentence, which may be passed, in addition to those provided in Section 5 of this Canon may be censure.

Court of Review of the Trial of a Bishop

23. There shall be established by the Episcopal Synod a Court of Review of the Trial of a Bishop, to which the accused Bishop, if found guilty, may appeal from the judgment of the Trial Court.

Appeals within 30 days

24.

(a) Appeals shall be filed within thirty days from the date of the judgment of the Trial Court.
(b) The notice of appeal shall state the grounds of the appeal.
(c) The Court of Review may, for good reason, enlarge the time limited for appeal.

Transcript of record to be sent to Review Court

25. Upon notice of appeal being given, the Clerk of the Trials Court shall send to the Court of Review of the Trial of a Bishop a transcript of the record, including all the evidence, certified by the President and Clerk of the said Trial Court.
26. No oral testimony shall be heard by the said Court, nor, except by permission of the said Court, shall any new evidence be introduced in the said hearing.

Power of Court to dispose of case

27. The Court of Review of the Trial of a Bishop may affirm or reverse any judgment brought before it on appeal, and may enter final judgment in the case, or may remit the same to the Trial Court for a new trial, or for such further proceedings as the interest of justice may require.

Proviso

28. Sentence shall not be imposed upon a Bishop found guilty of heresy unless and until the said finding has been approved by a vote of two thirds of all the Bishops in the Episcopal Synod entitled to vote.

Final sentence – to whom Communicated

29. When final sentence has been pronounced, it shall be the duty of the Archbishop to communicate such sentence to all Metropolitans of the Anglican Communion, and to the Dean, Provost, Archdeacon or other ecclesiastical authorities of every Diocese of the Province. It shall be the duty of such authority to cause such sentence to be made known to every clergyman under his jurisdiction.

CANON XVIII

OF RESIDUAL POWERS OF THE ARCHBISHOP

1. In carrying out the provisions of this Constitution, the Archbishop has powers:-
   (a) to provide for any matter not specifically provided for in this Constitution;
   (b) to appoint a person to perform any function where there has been a failure, or an unwillingness to perform or a default in performing that function by the person charged with the duty under this Constitution or Canons;
   (c) to extend or alter the time for holding any meeting or election or to modify the procedure laid down by the Canons for the purpose;
   (d) in any case where there had been no valid election, to direct fresh election and to give such directions in connection with the election as he considers necessary; and as he considers expedient and consistent with this Constitution and Canons;
   (e) where any difficulty arises in the administration of the Province, to give any direction he considers expedient and consistent with this Constitution and Canons.

CANON XIX

OF QUORUM

1. Where no provision for a quorum of members is specifically provided for in the Constitution and Canons of the Church of the Province of West Africa, two-thirds of the members present and voting shall form a quorum.
2. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Constitution or the Canons, where a quorum is required for any purpose by this Constitution or the Canons, a quorum of not less than on-half of the membership shall be valid.

CANON XX

OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CANONS

Notice of proposed amendment

1. Formal notice for alteration, amendment or repeal of any Canon or portion thereto, or addition to the Canons may be proposed to the Provincial Synod by the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy, the House of Laity, and Diocesan Synod, or any individual member of the Provincial Synod.

Amendment when to take effect

2. Any alteration, amendment or repeal of any Canon or portion thereto, or addition to the Canons, when approved by the Provincial Synod, shall take immediate effect upon such approval unless otherwise provided.

SCHEDULE A

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE EXISTING DIOCESES IN THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

The boundaries of the existing dioceses of the Province of West Africa are as set out hereunder:

The Diocese of Accra

Comprises the Administration Area within the Greater Accra Region, bounded on the south by the Gulf of Guinea; on the west by the Waija Dam to Bortianor; on the north by Achimota to Agodomi; on the east by Agodomi to Ada.

The Diocese of Bo

Comprises the area within the political boundaries of the Southern and Eastern Regions of Sierra Leone.

The Diocese of Cape Coast

Comprises the area coterminous with the Central Region of Ghana bounded on the north by the Ashanti Region; on the south by the Gulf of Guinea; on the east by Greater Accra Region; and on the west by the Western Region of Ghana.

The Diocese of Freetown

Comprises the area within the former Colony Area now the Western Area, the northern Province of Sierra Leone and the Bonthe Islands.

The Diocese of Gambia

Comprises the area within the Republic of The Gambia, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic Cape Verde.

The Diocese of Guinea

Comprises the area within the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Guinea Bissau.

The Diocese of Koforidua

Comprises the area within the Eastern and Volta (Southeastern) Regions of Ghana.

The Diocese of Kumasi

Comprises the area bounded on the North by Brong-Ahafo Region (part of Sunyani/Tamale Diocese) on the south by the Central Region (Cape Coast Diocese); on the east by the Eastern Region (Koforidua Diocese); on the west by the Western Region (Secondi Diocese)

The Diocese of Liberia

Comprises the area within the Republic of Liberia.

The Diocese of Sekondi

Comprises the whole of the Western Region of Ghana.

The Diocese of Sunyani/Tamale

Comprises the four Northern Political Administration Regions of Ghana, viz., Brong-Ahafo, Northern, Upper East; and Upper West Regions.

SCHEDULE B

ORDER OF SENIORITY OF BISHOPS AND CLERGY

The following is the Order of Precedence for the Bishops and Clergy of this Province:

1. The Archbishop or the Acting Metropolitan
2. The Retired Archbishops (if any)
3. The Dean of the Province
4. The Diocesan and Missionary Bishops in order of consecration, except that, in his own Diocese, the Diocesan Bishop (or in his absence the Bishop Coadjutor or the Suffragan Bishop as the case may be) ranks next after the Metropolitan or Acting Metropolitan.
5. The Visiting Diocesan Bishops from without the Province unless assigned, as a matter of courtesy, a special place by the Metropolitan.
6. The Retired Diocesan Bishops, if any, in order of Consecration.
7. Bishops Coadjutor in order of consecration, except that, in the absence of the Diocesan Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor shall take precedence among the Diocesan and Missionary Bishops.
8. Suffragan Bishops in order of consecration, except that, in the absence of the Diocesan Bishop, if there is no Bishop Coadjutor and the Suffragan Bishop is in charge of the Diocese, he shall take precedence among the Diocesan and Missionary Bishops.
9. The Retired Suffragan Bishops, if any.
10. The Deans or Provosts.
11. The Presidents or Deans of Seminaries in the Province, if any.
12. The Archdeacons.
13. The Canons
14. The Rural Deans (if any) in their own Diocese only. (Nos. 12, 13 and 14 are to be ranked in the order of their appointments).
15. The Priests (by priority of ordination).
16. The Deacons (by priority of ordination).

NOTE: Retired Priests or Priests holding emeritus rank enjoy no precedence other than that afforded them by seniority of ordination.

SCHEDULE C

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SCHEDULE C

ECCLESIASTICAL FORMS

FORM 1

MANDATE FOR THE ENTHRONEMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

MANDATE

The Very Reverend
Dean Provost ..... Cathedral
(address)

Greetings:

WHEREAS the Most Reverend ....., Archbishop of the Church of the Province of West Africa, retired (resigned) from office on (month), (date), (year); or died in office on (month), (date), (year);

AND WHEREAS, the Electoral College at (city), (country) on (month) (date), (year), duly elected the Right Reverend (name) Lord Bishop of ..... to the Most Reverend and Distinguished office and Rank of Archbishop of the Church of the Province of West Africa in succession to the Most Reverend (name);

NOW BY THESE PRESENTS WE do authorize, enjoin and command you to INSTALL and ENTHRONE the said ....., Bishop of ..... as ARCHBISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF THE PROVICE OF WEST AFRICA.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

AMEN.

Dated the ..... day of ....., ...

DEAN OF THE CHURCH OF
THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

BISHOP OF .....

FORM II

ARCHBISHOP'S OATH

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

I, ……, by Divine Permission, Archbishop of the Church of the Province of West Africa, do hereby promise to respect, maintain and defend the rights, privileges and liberties of the Province, and the rule therein with truth, justice and charity, not lording it over God's heritage, but showing myself in all things an example to the flock.

SO HELP ME GOD AND THESE HOLY SCRIPTURES. AMEN.

(This Oath is to be taken with the Archbishop's left hand holding the Primatial Cross and his right hand resting on the open book of the Gospel).

FORM III

DECLARATION MADE ON CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS AND ORDINATION OF PRIEST OR DEACON

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF ……

"I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship as evolved in the Diocese of …… of the Church of the Province of West Africa.

Or

I accept and unfeignedly believe all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as given by inspiration of God, and containing all things necessary to Salvation.

I give general assent to the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion and to the Book of Common Prayer and of the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons; I believe the doctrine as therein set forth to be agreeable to the Word of God; and in Public Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments. I will use the form in the said Book prescribed and none other, except so far as shall be ordered by lawful authority.

I, A.B., assent to the Doctrine and Worship of the Church of the Province of West Africa, and I further declare that I consent to be bound by all the Articles and Canons of the Province of West Africa, and by the Regulations which have heretofore been made, or which may from time to time be made by the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of …… and by the Provincial Synod of the Province of West Africa.

(And I hereby undertake to accept and immediately submit to any sentence depriving me of any or all the rights and emoluments appertaining to the office of …… which may at any time be passed upon me, after due examination had, by any Tribunal acknowledged by the Provincial Synod of the said Province for the trial of a Bishop or a Clergyman saving all rights of appeal allowed by the Provincial Synod.)"

(The words in bracket to be used only when there is admission to an office)

FORM IV

TESTIMONIALS OF THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

Diocese of……

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Diocese of …… provides for the election of Bishops; and

WHEREAS at the Synod (Convention) of the said Diocese held at …… on (date), the Bishop's Nominating Committee under the chairmanship of …… Chancellor of the Diocese submitted as nominees to the Synod the following persons

(list names), and

WHEREAS on (date) the (name) was duly elected by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast on the ballot; and

WHEREAS the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod (Convention) and the Registrar of the Diocese did submit to the Archbishop, His Grace …… under seal of the Diocese the name of …… as the person elected (Diocesan, Coadjutor, Suffragan) Bishop; and

WHEREAS, testimony has been given that the Rev. …… was ordained to the Diaconate on (date) and to the Priesthood on (date), thereby indicating that he was duly qualified for said election; and

WHEREAS no canonical objection has been interposed to the election of Rev. ……

NOW THEREFORE, be it known that our Beloved …… of sound doctrine, faithful and devoted to the discipline of the Church of Christ, and of worthy moral conduct, is being presented for consecration as (Diocesan, Coadjutor, Suffragan) Bishop of the Diocese of ……

Dated at …… this …… day of …… in the year of our Lord ……

REGISTRAR, DIOCESE OF ……

FORM V

MANDATE FOR CONSECRATION OF A BISHOP

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

MANDATE for the consecration of the
Rev. …… to be
(Diocesan, Coadjutor, Suffragan) Bishop of
……

WHEREAS on the …… day of …… in the year of our Lord …… the Synod of the Diocese of ……, in keeping with provisions of its Diocesan Constitution and Canons as well as those of the Constitution and Canons of this Province, did duly elect the Reverend to be (Diocesan, Coadjutor, Suffragan) Bishop of the Diocese of ……; and

WHEREAS, the said election has been confirmed by the Episcopal Synod in accordance with the Provisions of the Provincial Constitution; and

WHEREAS, testimony has been given of the piety, sobriety and honesty of life of the said ……, of his sound doctrine and faithfulness to the discipline of the Church of Christ; and of worthiness of his moral conduct; and

WHEREAS testimony has been given of his having been made Deacon on (date) and ordained Priest on (date)

NOW THEREFORE we by Divine Providence Archbishop of the Province of West Africa, do, by this our mandate, direct that due order be taken for the Consecration by US of the said …… to the office of Bishop in the Church of God, in accordance with the Church of the Province of West Africa, there being to assist and take part in that Consecration such Bishops of this and of other parts of the Anglican Communion as shall be convenient.

Given under Our Hand and Seal this …… day of …… in the year of our Lord …… and in the …… Year of Our Consecration and the …… year of our Archiepiscopacy.

ARCHBISHOP
CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

FORM VI

MANDATE FOR ENTHRONEMENT OF DIOCESAN BISHOP

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

MANDATE

The Very
Reverend .....
Dean (Provost)..... Cathedral
(address)

Greetings:

WHEREAS on the ..... day of ..... in the year of our Lord ..... the Synod of the Diocese of ....., in keeping with the provisions of its Diocesan Constitution and Canons as well as those of the Constitution and Canons of this Province did duly elect the Reverend ..... to be Diocesan Bishop of .....; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend ..... was consecrated by Us on the ..... day of ..... in the year of our Lord ..... in (name of church, city), diocese of ..... with the assistance of the Right Reverend Fathers in God (list them)
in the presence of a congregation of Clergy and Laity and according to the manner and form prescribed and used by the Church of the Province of West Africa rightly and canonically;

NOW BY THESE PRESENTS WE do authorize, enjoin and command you to INSTALL and ENTHRONE the said Right Reverend ..... as Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of .....

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Given under Our Hand and Seal this ..... day of ..... in the Year of our Lord ..... in the ..... Year of Our Consecration and the ..... Year of our Archiepiscopacy

ARCHBISHOP
CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

FORM VII

DECLARATION OF CANONICAL OBEDIENCE OF BISHOP TO ARCHBISHOP AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROVINCIAL CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN

I, A.B., elected ..... Bishop in the Diocese of ..... do promise all due reverence and obedience to the Archbishop and to the Metropolitical Church of the Province of West Africa and to their successors.

I, A.B., elected ..... Bishop in the Diocese of ..... do promise that I will teach and maintain the Faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Doctrine and Discipline by Him delivered to the Church, as acknowledged and set forth by the Church of the Province of West Africa in the Constitution of the Province. And I also do declare that I consent to be bound by, (and to govern my Diocese in conformity with), the Constitution and Canons of the said Province, and by the Regulations which have heretofore been made, or which may from time to time be made by the Provincial Synod of the Province of West Africa. And I hereby undertake to resign or to accept and immediately submit to any sentence depriving me of any or all the rights and emoluments appertaining to the said Bishopric, which may at any time be passed upon me, after due examination by any Tribunal acknowledged by the Provincial Synod of the said Province for the trial of a Bishop, saving all rights of appeal allowed by the said Provincial Synod.

FORM VIII

NOTIFICATION OF CONSECRATION OF BISHOP

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN

To the faithful in Christ Jesus throughout the world

GREETINGS:

BE IT KNOWN UNTO YOU by these Presents that

WE, by Divine Permission Lord Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Church of the Province of West Africa, did, on the ..... day of ..... in the Year of our Lord ..... in (name of Church), (city), Diocese of ..... with the assistance of the Right Reverend Fathers in God (list them) in the presence of a congregation of Clergy and Laity and according to the manner and form prescribed and used by the Church of the Province of West Africa, rightly and canonically Ordain and Consecrate Our Beloved in Christ, the Reverend ....., of whose efficiency in good learning, soundness of faith and purity of manners, we have fully ascertained into the Sacred Office of a Bishop in the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of God, have been duly elected and confirmed by Us, after such consultation with the Diocesan Bishops of this Province as required by its Constitution, his having first in Our presence made the solemn Declaration of Submission to the Authority of the Provincial Synod of West Africa and taken the Oath of due obedience to Us the Archbishop of West Africa and our successors.

In Testimony wherefore We have caused our seal to be affixed to these Presents this ..... day of ..... in the year of our Lord ..... being the ..... year of our Consecration and the ..... year of our Archiepiscopacy.

ARCHBISHOP
CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

FORM IX

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF NOTIFICATION

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

This is to certify that this Certificate of Notification was this day recorded in the Provincial Registry.

Dated the ..... day of ....., A.D. .....

PROVINCIAL REGISTRAR

FORM X

CERTIFICATE ON ORDINATION OF A PRIEST OR DEACON

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

DIOCESE OF .....

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

To all the Faithful in Christ Jesus throughout the World.

Greetings:

BE IT KNOWN unto you by these Presents, that We, by Divine Providence, Bishop of ....., conferring Holy Orders under the Protection of Almighty God, in (name of church) in (name of city), (name of country) on the ..... day of ..... being ..... in the year of Our Lord, ... did then and there, rightly and canonically and according to the form prescribed in the Ordinal, in the Book of Common Prayer, Ordain as a (PRIEST OR DEACON) in the ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH, our beloved brother in Christ,

(Name)

of whose pious, sober and honest life and conversation, competent learning, knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and soundness in the Faith we are well assured; he also having in our presence freely and voluntarily declared that he believes the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to Salvation; and having solemnly sworn to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of the Church in the Province of West Africa under whose authority we hold our jurisdiction.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, WE have hereunto affixed our seal and signature in (name of city) (name of country) on the day and in the year hereinbefore written, and in the ..... year of our Consecration.

BISHOP OF .....

FORM XI

OATH OF CANONICAL OBEDIENCE

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF .....

I, ..., do solemnly promise and profess that I will pay true and Canonical Obedience to the Bishop of ..... and his successors, in all things lawful and honest.

So help me God.

.....

The above Oath was taken in our presence
this ..... day of ..... in the Year of Our Lord
One thousand nine hundred and .....

FORM XII

LETTER OF INSTITUTION OF A MINISTER

DIOCESE OF ……

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVICE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(full name), Priest of the Church of God, you have been called to work together with your Bishop and fellow ministers as a pastor, priest and teacher, and to take your share in the Councils of the Church.

Now in accordance with the Canons, you have been selected to serve God in …… Church (of) …… as ……

This letter is a sign that you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise this ministry, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a Priest of this Diocese, in communion with your Bishop.

Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor, by your words, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

May the Lord, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

Given under my hand and seal, in the city of …… on the …… day of ……, ……, and in the …… year of our Consecration.

……
BISHOP OF ……

FORM XIII

MANDATE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN HONORARY CANON

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF .....

The Very Reverend .....
Dean (Provost) of .....

Greetings:

WE, ..., by Divine Providence BISHOP OF ..... by this our Mandate do request and require you to install as HONORARY CANON IN ..... Cathedral in this our Diocese, our brother ..... he having been appointed by US HONORARY CANON.

IN TESTIMONY whereof WE have here unto set Our hand and caused our seal to be affixed to these Presents this ..... day of ..... in the year of Our Lord One Thousand nine hundred and ..... and in the ..... Year of our Consecration.

.....
BISHOP OF

FORM XIV

DEED OF THE INSTITUTION OF HONORARY CANON

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF ……

To our beloved in Christ, the Reverend ……,

Greetings:

WE, ……, by Divine Providence Bishop of ……, do by these Presents appoint you to the Office of Honorary Canon in this our Diocese of ……; and by Mandate do require the Dean (Provost) of …… to install you as such.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD be upon you always.

Given under our hand and seal this …… day of …… in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and …… and in the …… Year of Our Consecration (and the …… year of Our Investiture)

……
BISHOP OF……

FORM XV

DECLARATION OF ASSENT OF HONORARY CANON

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

I, ……., about to be installed as Honorary Canon in ……. Cathedral, Diocese of……., do hereby declare that I believe the Doctrine and Discipline of the Anglican Church as acknowledged and set forth by the Church of the Province of West Africa in the Constitution of the said Province; and I promise I will use the form in the Book prescribed by the Diocese of ……. and none other except so far as shall be ordered by lawful authority.

The above Declaration was taken in our presence this ……. day of ……. in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and ……. and in the ……. year of Our Consecration.

……
BISHOP OF …….

……
CHANCELLOR……

FORM XVI

DEED OF APPOINTMENT OF ARCHDEACON

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF ……

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NN, Priest of the Church of God, you have been called to work together with your Bishop and fellow Priests as a pastor and teacher, and to take your share in the Councils of the Diocese.

Now, in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of ……, you have been appointed to serve as ARCHDEACON of the …… Archdeaconry.

This certifies that you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise this office, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a Priest of the Diocese, in communion with your Bishop.

Do not forget the trust imposed on you. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, and strengthen them in their gifts and ministries to the glory of God. Pray for them without ceasing. Care alike for all. By your words, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel.

May the Lord, who has given you the will to do all these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

Given under my hand and seal in the city of …… on the …… day of …… in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and …… and in the …… year of Our Consecration.

BISHOP OF ……

FORM XVII

OATH AND DECLARATION OF AN ARCHDEACON

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF ……

I, ……, Priest, having already taken and subscribed the Declarations and Oaths, which by law or custom are required, do solemnly promise to undertake the duties of an Archdeacon in the Church in the Archdeaconry of ……

I promise to uphold the authority of the Bishop of …… and his successors in all legal and just demands, and I agree to exercise the said Office of Archdeacon for so long as may be required of me by the Bishop of …… and his successors.

So help me God.

The above Oath and Declaration were taken in our presence this …… day of …… One Thousand Nine Hundred and ……

BISHOP OF ……

FORM XVIII

LICENCE TO OFFICIATE

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF ……

WE, ……., by Divine Providence Bishop of ……:

To our beloved in CHRIST

……
PRIEST IN HOLY ORDERS

GREETINGS:

Based on our confidence in your learning, moral, and fidelity, we give and grant you Our LICENSE and authority to perform ecclesiastical functions in the Parish/Congregation of …… in the Country of …… within our Diocese and Jurisdiction; and, in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer and subsequent rites permitted by the Church of the Province of West Africa, you are to abide by the Constitution and Canons of our Church, and directives which we may issue from time to time.

This Licence, unless revoked, shall continue for …… year(s), effective ……

BISHOP OF ……

Renewed this ……

Renewed this ……

Renewed this ……

FORM XIX

LICENCE FOR A LAY READER

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF ……

LAY READER'S LICENCE

……

is hereby appointed and licensed as a LAY READER assigned to serve under the direction of …… in …… Church.

This license, unless revoked for reasonable cause, shall continue until ……

In the discharge of the duties of this office, …… is required to observe the Canons and such regulations as may be promulgated by the Bishop.

BISHOP OF ……

Issued this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

FORM XX

LICENCE FOR A CHALICIST

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF ……..

CHALICIST'S LICENCE

……., appointed and licensed as a Lay Reader at …….. Church on …… day of ……., 19……., is hereby also licensed to administer the Chalice during the celebration of the Holy Communion provided that the Priest whom …….. so assists remains solely responsible to us for the conduct of the Service.

This license, unless revoked for reasonable cause, shall continue until ……..

In the discharge of the duties of this office, …… is required to observe the provisions of the Canons and such regulations as may be promulgated by the Bishop.

BISHOP OF ……..

Issued this …… day of……., A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……., A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……., A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……., A.D. ……

FORM XXI

LICENCE FOR A LAY READER TO PREACH

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF ……

LICENCE TO PREACH

……, appointed and licensed as a Lay Reader at …… Church on …… day of …… 19……, this licence to deliver addresses or sermons of his own composition under the continued supervision of the Priest.

This licence, unless revoked for reasonable cause, shall continue until ……

In the discharge of the duties of this office, …… is required to observe the provisions of the Canons and such regulations as may be promulgated by the Bishop.

BISHOP OF ……

Issued this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

Renewed this …… day of ……, A.D. ……

FORM XXII

LETTERS DISMISSORY

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF .....

I hereby certify that the Reverend ....., canonically resident in the Diocese of ....., who has signified his desire to be transferred to the Diocese of ....., is a Priest (or Deacon) in good standing in this Diocese, and has not, so far as I know or believe, been justly liable to evil report, for error in religion or for viciousness of life, for the past ..... years.

Issued this ..... day of ..... A.D. ..... and in the ..... year of our Consecration.

.....
BISHOP

FORM XXIII

ACCEPTANCE OF LETTERS DISMISSORY

THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA
(Anglican Communion)

DIOCESE OF .....

The Letters Dismissory from, the Bishop of ..... with respect to the transfer to this Diocese of the Reverend ..... have been presented to me and have been accepted.

Issued this ..... day of ....., A.D, ... and in the ..... year of Our Consecration.

.....
BISHOP